

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL**

**Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate  
Street, Rotherham.**

**Date: Thursday, 14 February 2008**

**Time: 9.30 a.m.**

### **A G E N D A**

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Communications
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Questions from members of the public and the press

### **FOR PRESENTATION**

6. "Here's the Deal" - Update from the Compact Monitoring Group (Pages 1 - 17)  
- report by Lynne Rowan, Community Development Manager
7. Draft Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy 2008-11 (Pages 18 - 60)  
- report by Vicky Brown, Strategy Planning Manager, Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

### **FOR MONITORING**

8. Respect Agenda and Delivery Plan Refresh (Pages 61 - 98)  
- report by Steve Parry, Safer Rotherham Partnership Co-ordinator
9. Safer Neighbourhoods Teams Review (Pages 99 - 103)  
- report by Michelle Musgrave, Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services
10. Forward Plan (Pages 104 - 106)  
- Key Decisions between 1<sup>st</sup> February-30<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

## FOR INFORMATION

11. Cabinet Member of Neighbourhoods (Pages 107 - 117)  
- minutes of meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2008

## MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

12. Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel (Pages 118 - 123)  
- minutes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2008
13. Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee (Pages 124 - 132)  
- minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2008
14. Recycling Group (Pages 133 - 134)  
- minutes of meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2008
15. New Arrivals Working Group (Pages 135 - 136)  
- minutes of meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2008
16. Exclusion of the Press and Public  
Resolved:- That, under Section 100(4) of the Local Government act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 indicated below of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the Council))
17. Neighbourhoods Services Revenue Budget 2008/09 (Pages 137 - 140)  
- update by Mike Clements, Service Accountant

**Date of Next Meeting:-  
Thursday, 13 March 2008**

### **Membership:-**

Chairman – Councillor McNeely

Vice-Chairman – Councillor P. A. Russell

Councillors:-Atkin, Barton, Cutts, Falvey, Goulty, Havenhand, Lakin, Lee, Nightingale, Robinson, Walker and F. Wright

Co-optees:- Hilary Cahill (Housing Tenant Panel), Mr. Keith Stringer (Parish Councils), D. Barker (Parish Councils), Mr. J. Carr (Environment Protection UK), Mr. J. Lewis (Rotherham Chamber) and Mr. D. Willoughby (Housing Tenant Panel Representative)

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> February 2008</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>‘HERE’S THE DEAL!’ – update from the Compact Monitoring Group</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Programme Area:</b>	<b>2010 Rotherham Ltd – Neighbourhoods</b>

### **5. Summary**

This report is the second six-monthly update on the progress of the Action Plan delivering the commitments detailed in the Customer Participation Compact, ‘Here’s the deal!’ The report shows that the principles of ‘Here’s the Deal’ continue to be promoted at relevant opportunities including via a series of special roadshows which took place during May and June 2007. The performance monitoring framework which assists the Compact Monitoring Group overseeing the delivery of the action plan, shows continual progress being made in achieving the commitments detailed within the compact.

### **6. Recommendations**

**That the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel**

- a) **Notes the Performance Monitoring Framework reporting on progress of delivery of the action plan.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

Following the signing and launch of the compact, the principles of 'Here's the Deal' are promoted at available opportunities.

A series of roadshows to promote 'Here's the Deal' and opportunities for involvement took place during the months of May and June, linking in with opportunities to get involved including Area Assemblies, a Community litter pick, Area Housing Panel Bus Tours and a launch of a local Parish Plan. In one roadshow a partnership arrangement with South Yorkshire Fire Service led to an operational Fire Engine being available to offer fire safety advice. As a result of these initial roadshows contact was made with an estimated 250 people. 7 additional customers were involved in Area Housing Panel bus tours, 2 of which are now Area Housing Panel members, also additional projects were suggested by members of the public. 15 new key players were signed up and positive publicity was highlighted in the local media. A stock of 'Here's the Deal' freebies are available for use in events and activities that encourage and promote getting involved and are used regularly for example at Rotherham Show, galas and community open days.

The Compact Monitoring Group (consisting of representatives from RMBC, 2010 Rotherham and Rother Fed) continue to meet monthly to monitor all of the commitments detailed in the compact action plan. The group has seen an increase in membership with 2 new community representatives recruited from the 'key player' database and an RMBC Councillor nominated from the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel.

This report is the second six-monthly update on the progress of the Action Plan delivering the commitments detailed in the Customer Participation Compact, 'Here's the Deal!'. Currently, of the 25 commitments monitored within the framework, 19 are 'on target' and 6 'off target', (76% on target and 24% off target). This indicates that good progress is being made with the majority of the commitments. Where commitments are off target more information is sought about recovery action being taken and this is reported back to the Compact Monitoring Group. The Compact Monitoring Group is in the process of calling Lead Officers related to off target commitments in order to establish recovery plans. Examples where this is taking place include: community priorities being fed into Safer Neighbourhood Teams, the development of a decorating scheme, and a tenant incentive scheme. The performance monitoring framework attached to the report identifies where recovery action has been put in place.

Rother Fed is specified as leading on a number of the commitments and 2010 and Rotherham MBC are supporting to assist them to build capacity to achieve the objectives. Such support includes assistance with the development of a training programme and also partnership working in exploring the potential of a scheme to offer incentives and rewards for the good practice of Tenants and Residents Groups. As a result of this Rother Fed have introduced an awards scheme for good practice and the first series of awards will be presented at their AGM in February.

Other issues feature within the compact and the group have been instrumental in ensuring these are addressed. Rother Fed now has an agreed process detailing the

support available to registered TARA's with regard to independent examinations of their accounts. Expenses procedures for customers willing to be involved are also being discussed, with Rother Fed developing their procedure. The process to resolve disputes that may occur in the event of partners not delivering commitments within the spirit of the Deal is currently being looked at. The group is also keeping in close contact with developments relating to accommodation issues for TARA's.

The progress of the Compact Monitoring Group has been reported to Rother Fed and 2010 Rotherham Ltd in October 2007.

### **8. Finance**

To maintain and develop opportunities for involvement requires a sustained financial commitment to ensure that the opportunities are effective, both for customers and services wishing to engage customer opinion.

Within the compact action plan, many of the commitments require resources to differing degrees. Some elements may come from core budgets and others may need to secure funding from other sources. A business case has been submitted to the Support Team to look at the possibility of RMBC funding for one initiative (Tenant Incentive Scheme).

Within the 2010 Community Involvement budget there is an amount set aside for the ongoing promotion of 'Here's the Deal'. There is also some capacity within this budget to support low cost initiatives or activities that arise from the Compact.

### **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

If any of the commitments contained within the action plan are not delivered this could lead to dissatisfaction from our customers. This could in turn affect results on key performance indicators relating to satisfaction (BV 74 & 75) which have been seen to rise recently.

Rother Fed is now becoming more established and with support is making good progress in working towards the achievement of commitments within the revised timescales. Funding for Rother Fed is secure up to March 2008 so there is an element of uncertainty of further funding. However the Compact Monitoring Group will ensure that progress is continually being made to achieve the actions.

The Compact Monitoring Group is aware of risk associated with accommodation for tenants and residents' groups. Many tenants and resident groups are currently facing issues relating to rent, leases and the availability of accommodation. To address this, the Compact Monitoring Group is currently looking to ascertain the scale of the problem and is keeping accommodation as a regular agenda item.

It is important to continue to ensure that all staff are familiar with the 'Here's the Deal!' document, share the commitment to the community involvement agenda, and have the necessary skills to work effectively with local groups. The Compact Monitoring Group has a role to play in ensuring that staff are kept up to date with the principles of 'Here's the Deal'. 'Here's the Deal' features in the 2010 induction

programme for all new starters and was covered in greater detail in the training package offered to the new 2010 Customer Service Assistants who are frontline staff dealing with the majority of initial enquiries from customers.

#### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

Improving opportunities and customer satisfaction with involvement is a key action within the 2010s Delivery Plan and progress will be measured through the annual STATUS survey (BVPI 75) and at the re-inspection. Customer satisfaction has improved from 62% to 64% since 2004 and we anticipate moving into top quartile performance (69%) by successfully implementing the actions contained within the compact".

#### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

'Here's the Deal' Compact and Summary. 2006.

Appendix A - Performance Monitoring Framework

**Contact Names:** Phil Rees, Neighbourhood Coordinator, ext. 2267

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2010  
ROTHERHAM LTD



# Performance Monitoring

Jan 08

## Here's the Deal Commitment No. 1.A

### Review Customer Service Standards

#### Aim:-

- Review all customer service standards and agree improvement targets with customers on an annual basis (Annually)

#### Timescale for delivery and milestones:-

- Learning from Customers Forum and Customer Inspection Service group in place to lead review (March 2006).
- Consult with customers to identify if current service standards meet customers expectations, are specific, measurable and Easy Read/Jargon free (April 2006)
- Provide text to Design Studio for design and production (May 2006)
- Service standard booklets printed and available in Neighbourhood Offices and Website (July 2006).

#### Lead Officer:- Karen Green (2010 Rotherham)

#### Position to date:

- All service standards within 2010 Rotherham Ltd. and Neighbourhoods have been reviewed.
- Service standards are available in Neighbourhood Offices and on the Website.
- Performance posters illustrate current performance against those standards.
- Charter Mark assessment confirmed that standards are in place and were reviewed using customer involvement.
- Progress being made in conducting service standards review for 07/08 with new 2010 Performance and Service Improvement Team.

#### Anticipated year end position (31 March 2008):

- All service standards reviewed and in place.

**Here's the Deal Commitment No. 1.B**

**Review the Neighbourhood Charters**  
**ON TARGET**

**Aim:-**

- Review the seven recently developed Neighbourhood Charters based on the Area Assembly boundaries that they also reflect the needs of communities of interest (By May 2008)

**Timescales for delivery and milestones:-**

- Hold consultation events in each area to consult on localised standards (Mar 06)
- Pull together relevant service standards and negotiate improvements (Mar 06)
- Distribution of Neighbourhood Charters (Nov 06)

**Lead Officer:- Jan Leyland/Shawn Mirfield (Rotherham MBC)**

**Position to date:**

- Area Plans minus neighbourhood charters published
- Awaiting confirmation from South York Police of certain standards
- Neighbourhood Standards Manager arranged for the publication of a borough wide booklet with all 61 multi agency standards in. Further consideration may be required as to the format of any Area Assembly Charters

**Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):**

**Here's the Deal Commitment No. 1.C**

**Incentives for Customer to encourage service improvement suggestions**  
**ON TARGET**

**Aim:-**

- Introduce incentives for customers to encourage service improvement suggestions and set a new standard to improve response times to Customer Inspection Service recommendations (Apr 07)

**Timescales for delivery and milestones:-**

- Take ideas to 2010 Board and Cabinet Member (July 2006)
- Report to Executive Management Team of 2010 to apply for funding from the Development Fund (By Jan 2007)
- Identify staff responsible for development of scheme (Feb 2007)
- Incentive scheme publicised (by April 2007)

**Lead Officer:- Simon Bell (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)**

**Position to date:**

- Ideas report has been taken to 2010, Cabinet and Area Chairs
- Ideas include incentives around housing income, estate management and community involvement
- Report has been prepared to go to EMT regarding a Development Fund bid to fund the scheme. Given current budget position and remedial action plan no bids are currently being considered
- Budget negotiations taken place. No Development Fund Bid available at present.
- Business case put to Support team August 07. Outcome was unsuccessful.
- Recovery Action – information sought from CMG - Business case revised and resubmitted Nov 07 – awaiting outcome.

**Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):**

- Decision made on the revised business case for incentive scheme.



### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 1.D

#### Use community event's feedback to improve services

**ON TARGET**

#### Aim:-

- Attend a minimum of one local community planning exercise / community event / fete / gala per area assembly area, per year to identify service improvements and feedback on progress to date

#### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Use techniques such as Planning for Real, and questionnaires

#### Lead Officer:- Jan Leyland (Rotherham MBC)

#### Position to date:

- Various Community planning events have taken place across the 7 Area Assemblies to encourage local residents to identify service improvements and feedback
- 7 specific consultation events have taken place at each of the Area Assemblies open themed meetings to consult on the Area Plans. All of the data and information received at these events have been used to validate this year's area plan and to formulate the basis of 2007/08's.

#### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- At least 2 community planning events held in each of the 7 Areas.

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 1.E

#### Customer involvement in setting priorities for Safer Neighbourhood Teams

**OFF TARGET**

#### Aim:-

- Ensure community influence in setting Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) priorities in all seven Assembly areas

#### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Hold six monthly stakeholder meetings
- Partnership working with SY Police, Neighbourhood Wardens etc.

#### Lead Officer:- Lesley Cooper (Rotherham MBC)

#### Position to date:

- Series of meetings taken place from Sept-Oct 06 looking at each Area Assembly priorities under the safer theme. Priorities data and intelligence from Community Information Unit, local groups, forums, Elected Members and Parish Councils add to this. Finalised Dec 06.
- Each SNT has an engagement plan which identified Key Individual Networks which are used for consultation, engagement and support.
- Representative of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams gave presentation to members of Rother Fed about the structure of SNT's and how community influence sets priorities
- Neighbourhood Action Groups developing action plans since Jan 07 to address each priority through a 'SARA' problem solving framework.
- Area Partnerships Manager and SNT officers continue to engage with communities in line with their community influence cycle.
- Community involvement in priority setting has been broadened since the March 07 Operation Impact. Using PCSO, 2010 and council staff, walkabouts and Street Briefings took place that gathered face to face community information from residents about their issues.
- This work has been adopted and is now used regularly, the second Operation Impact which started August will continue till the end of September. This will include a lot of SNT face to face work including some questionnaires and informal street discussions.
- Formal meetings will take place from the end of September. New priorities to come on line to the NAGs after September. NAGs deal with medium to long term problems.
- More immediate community priorities will be resolved through the Safer Neighbourhood teams ongoing work

#### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- Information on recovery action being sought. CMG calling Lead Officer to group meeting March 08.

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 1.F

**Develop a decorating service**  
**OFF TARGET Revise date to Dec 2007**

#### Aim:-

- Develop and implement proposals for a new decorating service

#### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Consult with potential customers and carry out some market testing (by Dec 2006)
- Conduct a feasibility study/sustainability review and present case to 2010 Board and Liaison meeting (by April 2007)
- Work in partnership with Wardens on Sheltered Housing Schemes (by April 2007)
- Create opportunities for young people to develop skills
- Promote via Age Concern Rotherham, ROPES etc.

**Lead Officer:- Julian Hurley (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)**

#### Position to date:

- Initial consultation taken place with potential customers
- Discussion taken place at Learning from customers group about the development of a questionnaire (Dec 06)
- Research taking place to ascertain practice of other ALMO's and potential benefits of such a service
- Consider how the development of the Borough Environmental Training Scheme (BETS) may link to such a scheme
- Distribution of questionnaire to ascertain feasibility taken place in July 07.
- Results of surveys made available to CMG.
- These results to be fed to Director level at 2010 to inform decisions on the most appropriate way forward.
- Current discussions taking place with relevant departments of 2010 to ascertain feasibility for development of service.

#### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- Information on recovery action being sought. CMG calling Lead Officer to group meeting March 08 regarding revised action plan.
- Progress in the development of a decorating service taking place.

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 2.A

**Increase customer involvement in decision making**  
**ON TARGET**

#### Aim:-

- Increase customer involvement on estates, in neighbourhood management and local decision making bodies by 10% (by April 2007)

#### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Promote estate walkabouts/involvement
- Develop training for Neighbourhood Champions/NSO's and CSA's
- Encourage involvement in Community Planning, Area Housing Panels, TARA's etc.
- Develop a flyer promoting ways to get involved, by December 2007
- Develop incentive scheme to encourage involvement by linking up with Housing Income Manager
- Obtain baseline figures of those involved in Community Planning, Area Housing Panels and TARA's

**Lead Officer:- Phil Rees and Community Development Managers (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)**

#### Position to date:

- Membership of Area Housing Panels has increased by 57% since January 2006 from 45 to 70 members in total (Jan 07).
- Training has been delivered to Customer Service Assistants in June 07 to inform them about how to encourage customer involvement.
- Flyer highlighting ways to get involved printed in November 2006 and being distributed at appropriate opportunities.
- Neighbourhood Champions have received details of key players who may be interested in being involved in estate walkabouts. Further work needs to be done to see whether this leads to an actual increase in involvement.
- Further work needs to be done to monitor increase in membership/involvement in Community Planning, Area Assemblies
- In Aug 2006 22 TARA's were known to 2010. This figure has increased to 35 (Aug 07).
- Programme of estate walkabouts for 2008 available and being promoted to customers.

#### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- Continued increase in customer involvement monitored

## Here's the Deal Commitment No. 2.B

### Increase customer involvement in area regeneration

**ON TARGET**

#### Aim:-

- Increase involvement of customers in Area Regeneration by 10% by encouraging early contact and reasonable consultation periods. (by April 2007)

#### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Explain and promote Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Steering Group and Decent Homes Project Group
- Develop flyer highlighting ways to get involved, including illustrating the HMRP and Decent Homes Project Group by November 2006
- Obtain baseline figures of customer membership of HMRP and DHPG
- Publicise calendar of scheduled programme works

**Lead Officer:- Phil Rees (2010 Rotherham Ltd.) Community Development Team**

#### Position to date:

- Flyer documenting ways to get involved printed and being circulated to people when they attend their decent homes open days, plus at other appropriate opportunities
- In April 2006 3 tenants were on the Decent Homes Steering Group. During the last year an additional 10 tenants have been involved either on the recently formed Decent Homes Project Group or in specific pieces of work eg: in service standard review, interviews for shortlisting contractors, site visits on window programme
- Decent Homes Project Group reviewing its membership and may approach key player database for interested individuals.
- Housing Market Renewal reviewed membership of its steering groups and customers will be involved more in terms of project delivery.

#### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- Increased number of customers being involved with DHPG group and others
- Calendars of notice of programmed works for Decent Homes available to customers

## Here's the Deal Commitment No. 2.C

### Programme of works published for customers

**OFF TARGET Revise date to August 2007**

#### Aim:-

- Produce a calendar to schedule programmed works in each area and provide customers with this information in advance.

#### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Develop calendars for each area (Decent Homes and Programmed maintenance)
- Explore links to Streetpride devolved budget
- Consult with local communities regarding the draft programmed maintenance work calendars (Target date for draft schedules by end July 07)
- Publicise via community networks and newsletters (Target date August 07)

**Lead Officer:- Colin Boyes – Decent Homes, Ramona Youhill – Programmed maintenance (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)**

#### Position to date:

- Decent Homes programme up to 2010 for all areas completed and publicised in 'Round your way' newsletter August 2006 edition
- Feb 07 edition of 'Round your place' gave advance notice of gas safety checks for next 6 months
- Feb 07 edition of Round your place asked customers if they would like to be involved in developing the 07/08 programme of maintenance work
- Information gathered from customers fed through to Neighbourhood Managers in Feb 07
- Neighbourhood Managers looking at any roll over from last year and new issues to contribute to draft schedule
- New schedule in place accompanied with a standard letter to inform those affected of works taking place.

#### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- Information on recovery action being sought. CMG calling Lead Officers to future meeting to ascertain recovery action plan.
- Programme of works for customers available giving them advanced notice of schemes affecting them.

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 2.D

**Star rating system for Tenant and Resident Association's**  
**OFF TARGET Revise date to April 2008**

#### **Aim:-**

- Develop a star rating system for TARAs, with standards to earn recognition, and incentives to encourage good governance including excellent practice in equality and diversity (by April 2007)

#### **Timescales for delivery and milestones:-**

- Work with Rother Fed to develop standards for recognition
- Carry out an action plan to increase community influence and involvement of new people

**Lead Officer:- Steve Ruffle (Rother Fed) supported by Lynne Rowan (2010 Rotherham Ltd.) and Steve Morrell (Rotherham MBC)**

#### **Position to date:**

- Research taken place to look at the good practice of other Almos and Federations
- Discussion taken place with Rother Fed about most appropriate way to proceed. Agreement to make initial approach to TARAs and AHP's about the development of a star rating system.
- Convene a time limited working group to take this and other related initiatives forward starting from the onset of development of such a system to ensure TARA's have 'ownership' of it.
- Rother Fed implemented reward system regarding examination of accounts.
- Consultation taken place with TARA's about potential achievements and rewards for such a scheme
- Good Practice Awards for TARA's introduced January 2008.
- Recovery actions documented in the 2010 Community Engagement Service Review Action Plan and Rother Fed business plan.

#### **Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):**

- Scheme to reward good practice of TARA's introduced. First set of awards presented at Rother Fed AGM February 2008.

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 3.A

**Develop 'the deal' to increase wider customer involvement**  
**ON TARGET**

#### **Aim:-**

- Further develop **the deal** as a clear set of principles and commitments to encourage the widest possible customer involvement (by Feb 07)

#### **Timescales for delivery and milestones:-**

- Wide spread consultation and marketing of the 'Here's the Deal!' Compact
- Develop awareness raising to Neighbourhood Champions
- Develop briefing method for other members of staff
- Circulate document to key groups and organisations
- Public launching of the deal to take place March-May 2007
- Develop relationships with hard to reach groups
- Consider establishing mini compact or 'quality circles' with communities of interest

**Lead Officer:- Phil Rees (2010 Rotherham Ltd.) Lynne Rowan CDM**

#### **Position to date:**

- Public launch March 2007 with co-operation of the Compact Monitoring Group and Rother Fed followed by a series of roadshows May/Jun 2007 to raise awareness and generate increased customer involvement
- Relationship built with Visually Impaired Group and mini compact being drafted. Links with Deaf Club and Speak up established.
- Full compact document and summary distributed widely
- Rother Fed, RMBC and 2010 staff briefed on 'the deal'

#### **Actual year end position (Mar 08):**

- Awareness of 'The deal' an ongoing campaign.
- Development of compacts or 'quality circles' with communities of interest in progress

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 3.B

#### Establish an accurate profile of customers

**ON TARGET**

#### Aim:-

- Develop an accurate profile of the composition of the Council's customers by ethnicity, disability etc., to enable service development and targeting (by Feb 2007)

#### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Look at the options to identify the best way to achieve this
- Implement the appropriate action eg: survey to obtain the results

**Lead Officer:- Kate Plant (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)**

#### Position to date:

- 'Getting to know you survey' distributed June 2006
- 6500 surveys returned, which is considered statistically valid
- Information received from 06/07 survey now all inputted on ANITE
- Initial analysis report went to 2010 Board Dec 06
- Highlighted issues at this stage are high levels of disability amongst customers, significant amount of older people and 2/3 women
- Reports set up on the ANITE system to provide simple profiles
- Increased profile of customers available
- Profile in use within the organisation to help inform service development
- Initial results may be skewed due to willingness to complete surveys. 2007/08 will see targeting younger tenants and people from a BME background to complete surveys

#### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- Increase in number of surveys completed including from younger tenants and people from BME background.
- Information in use to inform service development.

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 3.C

#### Increase BME and hard to reach participation in Rother Fed

**OFF TARGET Revise date to March 2008**

#### Aim:-

- Support Rother Fed to increase the involvement of BME and other hard to reach groups, so TARAs etc. become more representative of the communities they serve (by March 2007)

#### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Share with Rother Fed the community profiles to identify under represented groups
- Develop action plans or good practice to overcome barriers to involvement

**Lead Officer:- Steve Ruffle (Rother Fed) supported by Caroline Boyle and Kate Plant (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)**

#### Position to date:

- Information from the 'Getting to know you survey' being collated to build up a community profile. At present returns from BME communities are low and further targeting is needed in 2007.
- Planned event for March will introduce Rother Fed to the BME forum and explore future paths for involvement
- Initial consultation for possible pathways for involvement undertaken
- As more BME customers are encouraged to complete surveys during 07/08 so those profiles will be shared with Rother Fed
- Weekend training event exploring ways to involve everyone taken place
- Training session for TARA's to learn how to gather statistical information about their community taken place September 07.
- Recovery actions documented in the 2010 Community Engagement Service Review Action Plan and Rother Fed business plan.

#### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- Good Practice for TARA's scheme in place offering incentives to TARA's to 'involve everyone'
- Monitoring of involvement of hard to reach groups in TARA's

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 3.D

#### Target 6 consultation events with under-represented groups **COMPLETE**

##### Aim:-

- Target six consultations / involvement opportunities per year at specific under-represented groups (e.g. door to door surveys of BME tenants; specific consultations with children and young people). By April 07 and annually.

##### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Analyse community/customer profiles to identify under represented groups
- Consider barriers to involvement
- Target activities to address them

##### Lead Officer:- Kate Plant and CDM's (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)

##### Position to date:

- Consultation with BME communities in focus groups on a regular basis and via Rotherham Show
- Consultation with victims of racism and homophobia (Nov 06)
- LGBT event taken place during History Month (Feb 2007)
- Consultation event to consult with primary school children about making neighbourhood safer taken place in late November 06
- Consultation events to inform Deaf Club/Visual Impairment Group/Speak up about 2010 and consult with them on improving communication taken place
- Consultation with people with hearing impairment, visual impairment, young people and learning difficulties fed into the ASB service review

##### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- At least six consultation events taken place
- Evidence of actions taken/improvements as a result of the consultation available
- Consultation with under represented group will continue to take place to help inform and improve services

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 3.E

#### Deliver improvements arising from Equalities Impact Assessments **ON TARGET**

##### Aim:-

- Deliver 100% of Action Plan targets arising from the Equalities Impact Assessments. (by November 2007)

##### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Identify resources to monitor and implement EIA action plans

##### Lead Officer:- Kate Plant (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)

##### Position to date:

- All EIA's in year 2 of the programme were completed by March 07. Actions from the assessments are to be built into service plans for 07/08.
- Progress so far has included:
- Identified barriers in the apprentice recruitment process removed resulting in increased applications from BME communities, people over 21 and women
- Gas servicing customer satisfaction forms now equalities monitored

##### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- EIA's for 07/08 to be completed by March 08 and action plans from EIA's 06/07 to be complete

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 3.F

#### Increase plain language/other format publications

**ON TARGET**

#### Aim-

- Monitor and increase by 20% per year, the number of plain language publications and presentations in different formats – e.g. Talking newsletter articles; signed meetings; use of Makaton symbols etc. (by March 2007)

#### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Assess current availability of key documents
- Create action plan to increase their supply in other formats
- Train people from the Learning from Customers Forum to provide Plain English Accreditation
- Work with the Visually Impaired Group, Deaf Club and Speak Up

#### Lead Officer:- Rachel Ellis/Karen Green (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)

#### Position to date:

- Contact with Deaf Club, Visual Impaired group and Speak up to continue to engage around improving means of communication
- Learning from Customers group read documents to provide plain English accreditation
- 8 of a series of 12 information guides to support TARA's all gone to Learning from customers to acquire 'easy read' approval
- Getting to know you survey is increasing our awareness of different formats that our customers would prefer
- Appointment of 2010 Communications Manager and Service Improvement Team

#### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- Engagement with communities of interest resulting in consultation regarding the most appropriate formats for various publications and presentations

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 3.G

#### Review the Tenant Resource Centre Equal Opportunities Policy

**ON TARGET**

#### Aim:-

- Review and promote the Tenant Resource Centre's equal opportunities policy, and ensure that all TARAs and other bodies supported by 2010 are signed up to it (by February 2007)

#### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Consult with TARA's and bodies supported by 2010 Rotherham Ltd.
- Carry out series of roadshows and events
- TARA's and other bodies to sign up to it

#### Lead Officer:- Steve Ruffle (Rother Fed Ltd.)

#### Position to date:

- 2010's model constitution for TARA's includes equal opportunities section. This has been modified and approved by TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Service)
- Rother Fed have a comprehensive equal opportunities policy approved by their Board

#### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- Work taking place to encourage all TARA's who are members to sign up to Rother Fed's Equal Opportunities Policy

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 3.H

#### Deliver Equal Opportunities and Race Relations Training **ON TARGET**

##### Aim:-

- Promote regular equal opportunities and Race Relations Amendment Act training to overcome barriers and facilitate the involvement of hard to reach groups (ongoing)

##### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Promote courses through websites, newsletters and links to other training networks
- Monitor attendance by TARA group member

**Lead Officer:- Rachael O'Neill (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)**

##### Position to date:

- Racist incident training taken place in November
- Plans to roll out Equal Opportunities and Race Relations Training half day as part of 2010 induction commencing Jan 2007
- Further training rolled out to existing staff as part of department training plans in 2007
- Discussions taking place about tailoring specific training for TARA members or linking in with staff training
- 2 in house trainers have undertaken the train the trainer course to deliver the training.
- Consideration given to the links between attendance and the actions for TARA's to achieve recognition by reaching certain standards

##### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- Training taking place and attendance being monitored.

### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 3.I

#### Increase by 10% involvement of vulnerable/under-represented groups **OFF TARGET** Revise date to Jan 2008

##### Aim:-

- Increase by 10% membership and involvement of vulnerable and under-represented groups, e.g. young people, lesbian gay bi -sexual or transgender people, asylum seekers and refugees, carers and help them to be represented.

##### Timescales for delivery and milestones:-

- Monitor membership of TARA's and Rother Fed by age, ethnicity, disability
- Monitor involvement of vulnerable or under represented groups
- Compare with other Almos
- If necessary, develop changed or new structures for involvement

**Lead Officer:- Steve Ruffle (Rother Fed Ltd.) supported by 2010 Community Development Team**

##### Position to date:

- During 2006 work carried out to increase the number of people from under-represented groups on 2010's key player database held by 2010 Community Development Team
- As at Sept 07 the key player database has 9% BME communities, (risen from 4% in Jan 2006.) 29% with disabilities and 10% aged 13-24 years.
- Weekend event on 'Involving People' taken place and attended by community representatives.
- Good Practice for Tara's Awards Scheme encouraging involvement of under represented groups with a category of 'involving everyone'.
- Recovery actions documented in the 2010 Community Engagement Service Review Action Plan and Rother Fed business plan.

##### Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):

- Membership and involvement of under-represented groups increasing.
- Ongoing equalities monitoring of the key player database taking place



#### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 4.A

**Improve customer satisfaction with community involvement opportunities**  
**ON TARGET**

##### **Aim:-**

- Increase satisfaction with community involvement opportunities by 5%, year on year across all groups

##### **Timescales for delivery and milestones:-**

- Implement an action plan to improve customer satisfaction with involvement opportunities (BV 75) (by Jan 2007)
- Distribute the 'Here's the Deal' document and Summary (Nov 2006)
- Publicise involvement and outcomes achieved

**Lead Officer:- Community Development Team (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)**

##### **Position to date:**

- BV 75 Action Plan plan in place and actions being implemented
- 'Here's the deal' launched and promoted
- STATUS survey results show 5% increase in satisfaction, from 59% to 64%

##### **Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):**

- 5% increase in satisfaction on BV75

#### Here's the Deal Commitment No. 4.B

**Rother Fed Training Programme**  
**ON TARGET**

##### **Aim:-**

- Develop a Rother Fed Training Programme including: - one joint training event per year in Community Development principles and skills; and -one joint training event per year on local decision making structures and the Community Leadership role of Borough and Parish Councillors (by April 2007 and annually)

##### **Timescales for delivery and milestones:-**

- Support Rother Fed to identify training needs
- Organise joint training event for practitioners Councillors and Community representatives based on best practice

**Lead Officer:- Steve Morrell (Rotherham MBC)**

##### **Position to date:**

- Training needs assessments completed for a number of individual TARAs
- Training sessions on Constitutions for TARAs delivered to two emerging TARA's in the South and Central areas
- Whole Day Training Course to be delivered by Northern College on 22<sup>nd</sup> November specifically aimed at embryonic and inexperienced Tenants and Residents Associations
- Whole day training course (as above) repeated in Maltby and Dinnington
- Support for Rother Fed Shadow Board and elected Board by assessing Training needs
- Inaugural Weekend Training Session at Northern College delivered
- Training plan for Rother Fed developed in conjunction with new manager and training providers completed

##### **Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):**

- Target date for one joint training event devised and delivered in partnership with new Rother Fed Manager and RMBC Community Leadership Manager to revise to April 2008.
- Ongoing programme of training events developed by Rother Fed and attendance monitored.

**Here's the Deal Commitment No. 4.C**

**Provide incentives to Tenant and Resident Associations**  
**ON TARGET**

**Aim:-**

- Improve the way Tenants and Residents Associations are run by providing incentives for reaching standards (by April 2008)

**Timescales for delivery and milestones:-**

- Use 'Active Partners' or similar tool to establish a baseline assessment of TARA's and groups (eg PQASSO, Quality First)
- Develop an incentive scheme to reward good practice

**Lead Officer:- Steve Ruffle (Rother Fed) Lynne Rowan (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)**

**Position to date:**

- Some initial research and discussion taken place with regard to the most appropriate way(s) to establish baseline assessment of TARA's and groups
- Consultation taking place with TARA's and AHP's to discuss viability of star ratings or incentives/rewards
- Link to developing standards for recognition
- Incentive implemented for TARA's re independent examination of accounts
- Good Practice for TARA's scheme introduced January 2008. Categories of good practice include equalities and diversity, governance, new group development, training etc.
- Awards/incentives of £50 available to groups that meet the criteria.

**Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):**

- Good practice scheme introduced and awards presented at Rother Fed AGM in February 2008.

**Here's the Deal Commitment No. 4.D**

**Support access to local venues**  
**ON TARGET**

**Aim:-**

- Support local groups to access local venues for meetings (January 2007 onwards)

**Timescales for delivery and milestones:-**

- Publicise community buildings audit/availability
- Develop and implement criteria to provide grants to groups that cannot afford to hire premises
- Encourage existing users to share facilities with new and diverse groups
- Negotiate with service providers to create new community meeting space where necessary eg: within customer service centres etc.

**Lead Officer:- Steve Ruffle (Rother Fed Ltd.)**

**Position to date:**

- Collating information about the current position of the availability of premises, lease and peppercorn rent issues
- Grant available via Rother Fed to support groups with accommodation
- Public meeting taken place Sept 07 organised by VAR/Rother Fed to discuss these issues with TARA's
- Meeting taking place late February 2008 involving representatives of Rother Fed, RMBC and 2010 to discuss accommodation issues TARA's face and identify ways forward.

**Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):**

- Joint meeting taken place to identify issues and ways forward to support local groups.

**Here's the Deal Commitment No. 4.E**

**'On-line' reporting of local issues**

**On target**

**Aim:-**

- Enable 'on-line' reporting of local issues - creating cleaner, greener, safer and better used public spaces. (by April 2007)

**Timescales for delivery and milestones:-**

- Adopt on line community planning facility to enable communities to identify local issues

**Lead Officer:- Jan Leyland (Rotherham MBC)**

**Position to date:**

- Currently working with RMBC's Chief Executive Office to develop the interactive community planning facility.

**Anticipated year end position (Mar 08):**

- Interactive community planning toolkit developed and operational.

**Here's the Deal Commitment No. 4.F**

**Promote recycling amongst community networks**

**ON TARGET**

**Aim:-**

- Raise awareness of recycling, for the good of the environment, through community networks. (by April 2008)

**Timescales for delivery and milestones:-**

- Use Rotherham Reachout survey to baseline and monitor current levels of awareness regarding recycling
- Use community newsletters and websites to promote and encourage recycling

**Lead Officer:- Phil Rees (2010 Rotherham Ltd.)**

**Position to date:**

- Contact made with recycling section to gather information on recycling campaigns (Real Nappy Week, March, Home Composting Week, Environment Day, Recycle Week, June etc.)
- Consider recycling articles in future editions of 'Round your place'
- Consider awareness raising of recycling at all appropriate opportunities eg: roadshows, Rotherham Show, etc
- 2010 has set up an Environmental Champions Network to explore ways of raising awareness of recycling/energy efficiency amongst 2010 and the wider community. Rother Fed involved in the network.

**Anticipated year end position (Mar 08)**

- Rother Fed and 2010 promoting recycling through community networks
- Staff corporately raising awareness of recycling amongst their networks

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>14 February 2008</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Consultation: Draft Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy 2008-11</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods &amp; Adult Services</b>

**5. Summary:**

This report highlights the key findings of the second stage of consultation, following a circulation of the Draft Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy 2008-11 to key stakeholders in the borough and across the region and sub-region.

**6. Recommendations:****That the Scrutiny Panel:**

- **Notes the findings of the second stage of consultation on the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy.**
- **Agrees to receive a further report in March 2008 setting out a Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy to cover the period 2008-2011.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

This report outlines the key findings of the second stage of consultation on the Draft Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy 2008-11 carried out between December 2007 and January 2008.

The draft strategy has been produced following extensive consultation during July and October 2007 and takes account of recent research, including Rotherham's Strategic Housing Market Assessment, along with national, regional and sub-regional policy developments. The consultation and research process identified a number of key housing and neighbourhood priorities and as a result the strategy has been shaped around five themes:

- Places for People
- Decent Homes for All
- Meeting Housing Need and Market Demand
- Improving Access, Choice and Independence
- Working Together

Circulation of the draft strategy along with a number of specific consultation questions focused around section 7 – Main Challenges and section 8 – Focusing on Delivery has allowed all key stakeholders in the Borough, and across the region and sub-region, the opportunity to feedback and contribute further to the development of a refreshed, fit for purpose Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy.

A copy of the draft Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy 2008-11 can be found as Appendix 1.

### **Key Findings**

#### *Places for People*

- While the strategy recognises the need to 'close the gap' between the poorer and more prosperous neighbourhoods within the borough, it lacks detailed analysis of the problems and a clear perspective of what works and doesn't work.
- A cross reference of the strategy with the Respect Action Plan is required making reference to how wider enforcement tools will be used and how vulnerable tenants will be supported.

#### *Decent Homes for All*

- The strategy needs to be clear about the options considered for non-traditional housing which may include demolition.
- Acknowledge the needs of the new EU migrants where homelessness and overcrowding is a significant feature within this community and how it will be addressed.

#### *Meeting Housing Need and Market Demand*

- More clarity and detailed information around the identification of available land for additional housing is required.

- To realise the goal of releasing larger under-occupied homes may be unlikely unless more suitable accommodation is provided for the elderly who it is considered are already faced with an over provision of unsuitable and/or unpopular housing options.

#### Improving Access, Choice and Independence

- Although some areas of vulnerability amongst young people with a learning disability or mental health problem have already been identified, more consideration needs to be given to other vulnerable young people by providing move on accommodation for ex-offenders, teenage parents and those leaving care.
- Challenge whether we are doing enough to provide the number of supported living places for adults leaving home with a learning disability.

#### Working Together

- Consider setting objectives within the strategy around the selection of partners who have the skills and capacity to deliver, who are committed to long term involvement in neighbourhoods, while also delivering added value.
- Give specific reference to work with the private sector and Rotherham Chamber for local employment, local training and local supply chains.

### **8. Finance:**

There are no immediate financial implications arising directly from this report. However, the use of resources will need to be carefully considered when setting actions and targets for delivery of the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy.

### **9. Risks and Uncertainties:**

Following the circulation of the draft strategy to key stakeholders, discussions will continue with delivery partners to develop a 'fit for purpose' Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy for the period 2008-2011.

It will be important to ensure that the final Strategy reflects the priorities of stakeholders, as identified through consultation. However, the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy will also need to reflect Government policy agenda, and be realistic about what is achievable.

In addition, the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy will need to align with the sub-regional agenda, and the Integrated Regional Framework, as well as addressing issues in the Housing Green Paper, such as the additional growth areas.

### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:**

Delivery of the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy will support and deliver the strategic objectives and themes set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan and while doing so will contribute to the delivery of the Outcomes Framework. In particular,

- Improved Quality of Life - maximising supply of affordable housing, delivery of decent homes, promoting sustainable communities and reducing crime and fear of crime (SAFE).
- Increased Choice and Control - stimulating the choice of housing options and support services to encourage independent living and increasing opportunities for involvement (ALIVE and PROUD).
- Economic Well-Being - Revitalising the Town Centre by creating new homes, developing a range of options to make better use of existing housing stock and reducing fuel poverty (ACHIEVING and ALIVE).

**11. Background Papers and Consultation:**

The following is a non-exhaustive list of papers considered in the processing of drafting the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy:

- Local Government White Paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities
- Housing Green Paper: Homes for the future: More affordable, more sustainable
- The Cave Review
- The Hills Review
- The Barker Review
- Housing Act 2004
- Sustainable Community Strategy; and
- Corporate Plan

The remaining papers considered are quoted in the draft strategy document.

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# **First Draft**

## **Rotherham MBC Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy 2008-2011**

**December 2007**



## **1. Foreword**

To be added following consultation

## **2. Executive Summary**

To be added following consultation

### **3. Introduction**

#### **Background**

Rotherham's Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy 2008 -2011 is about the places where people live. It sets out our plans for creating sustainable communities, and ensuring that housing and local neighbourhoods make a significant contribution to growth and prosperity in the Borough.

Developed through wide-ranging consultation, it includes details of how we will deliver homes that are decent, affordable and aspirational. It also tackles the issues that make neighbourhoods places where people want to live.

The Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy is set within the wider strategic vision for Rotherham, which is set out in the Community Strategy, and is built around a thriving economy, with healthy, safe and inclusive communities. Sustainable communities underpin the Community Strategy, with (details of the key housing and neighbourhood related priorities are needed here from the refreshed Community Strategy) identified as priorities for action. The delivery of the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy will help the Council and its partners meet several of the broad strategic objectives set out in the Community Strategy. In particular, it will contribute to delivering the Achieving, Safe and Alive themes.

The Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy also supports the objectives *Making the Difference*, Transform South Yorkshire's sub-regional Housing Market Strategy, as well as the wider Yorkshire & the Humber Regional Housing Strategy.

#### **Achievements and Challenges**

As detailed in section five, much was achieved through the 2005-2008 Housing Strategy, notably:

- the delivery of the £313m Decent Homes Programme
- action to address areas of low demand through the Housing Market renewal Pathfinder
- Exiting plans being delivered to revitalise and transform the town centre

Through the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy for the period 2008-2011, we will be looking to build on our achievements. However, the ever changing political and social landscape also needs to be taken into account. Examples include:

- The Government's focus on delivering more homes, homes that are affordable, and homes with low carbon emissions
- The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, which requires Councils to take further steps to devolve power to local communities
- A growing and ageing population, which is placing increasing demands on the Borough's housing supply and related services
- Public expectations are changing, with our customers expecting more responsive and better value service from us

### **Aims, Themes and Objectives**

The aim of the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy is to support the vision for Rotherham as set out in the Community Strategy. In particular, the Strategy aims to:

1. Develop neighbourhoods into clean, green, safe and cohesive places where people want to live
2. Ensure people in social, owner occupied and private rented properties live in decent homes
3. Ensure that we have effective plans to meet housing need and market demand
4. Improve access, choice and independence to housing and housing services for all, but particularly vulnerable groups
5. Build on our approach to involvement, consultation and partnership working

Reflecting these aims, the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy is divided into five themes, underpinned by a number of strategic objectives:

- **Places for People** - within this theme our strategic objectives are:
  - Support a range of targeted interventions to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
  - Ensure housing and neighbourhood investment promotes balanced and well connected communities
  - Ensure effective management of neighbourhoods
  - Protect and enhance the environment
  - Put in place mechanisms to prevent and reduce tensions between communities, and promote community cohesion
- **Decent Homes for All** - within this theme our strategic objectives are:
  - Meet the Decent Homes targets for social housing
  - Ensure a customer focused repairs service for council housing stock
  - Address decency in non-traditional properties
  - Ensure that vulnerable groups in the private sector live in Decent Homes
  - Ensure effective enforcement activity
  - Improve energy efficiency across all housing tenures
- **Meeting Housing Need and Market Demand** - within this theme our strategic objectives are:
  - Improve the range and diversity of housing
  - Build new social housing
  - Provide high quality, aspirational homes
  - Tackle affordability in the housing market
  - Retain and make best use of existing stock
  - Address pockets of low demand
- **Improving Access, Choice and Independence** - within this theme our strategic objectives are:
  - Improve customer insight and customer satisfaction
  - Promote choice for BME communities

- Support independent living for people with disabilities, older people and young people
- Improve access to social housing and private rented accommodation
- Provide housing and neighbourhood advice to people across all tenures
- Prevent homelessness
  
- **Working Together** - within this theme our strategic objectives are:
  - Improve multi-agency working
  - Develop the role of Area Assemblies and neighbourhood management
  - Improve consultation and community involvement
  - Develop elected member involvement
  - Enable community ownership and management of assets

By delivering against the strategic objectives wider Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy will ensure (these need to be linked into refreshed LAA targets, as well as other locally determined outcomes):

- More homes
- Improved housing choice and affordability
- Achievement of Decent Homes targets
- Reduced levels of carbon emissions and fuel poverty
- Reduced levels of homelessness
- Greater independence for people with disabilities and older people
- Reduced admissions to hospital and residential homes
- Reduced levels of crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Reduced levels of community tensions and racial incidents
- Improvements in customer satisfaction with services

## **4. Strategic Context**

### **National Policy Framework**

Since the publication of the previous Housing Strategy in 2005, housing and creating places where people want to live have risen up the national political agenda.

The Government has focused on the place shaping role of Local Authorities, the devolution of power to local communities and extending customer choice. This is best exemplified by the ***Local Government White Paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities***, which identifies Community Call for Action, enhanced powers for Parish Councils, community ownership of local assets and neighbourhood management as key issues for local authorities and wider partnerships to address. Many of these measures have now been enacted through the 2007 Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Meanwhile, the ***Housing Green Paper: Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable***, has emphasised the need for more housing, which is affordable and sustainable. At the same time, the Government is placing greater emphasis on the need to ensure that policy addresses environmental sustainability and the impact of climate change.

Several other national reviews and policy papers will shape housing policy and practice over the next few years, and which are being addressed through legislation. These include:

- **The Barker Review** – set out proposals to reform the planning system to improve supply and the responsiveness of the housing market.
- **Every Tenant Matters (The Cave Review)** – proposed reforms to the regulation of social housing.
- **Ends and Means: The Future Role of Social Housing in England (The Hills Review)** – examined the role that social housing plays in meeting wider social objectives.

There are, however, several existing policy issues that continue to impact on housing and neighbourhoods. Not least is the Government's target requiring all social housing to meet decency standards by 2010. In addition, the existing legislative framework, including the 2004 Housing Act, places a range of responsibilities on RMBC and its partners. The Government also remains committed neighbourhood renewal, although this is to be focussed on pockets of acute deprivation. Finally, the work of the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders (HMRPs) will continue to be supported.

### **Regional Policy Framework**

Regional Assemblies were asked in 2006 to rationalise and refresh the high-level strategy for their Region, to clarify regional objectives and priorities in order to put sustainable development at the heart of regional strategy.

The Government's guidance provides for a new Integrated Regional Framework (IRF), which, in this Region, will replace the current regional frameworks, Advancing Together and the Regional Sustainable Development Framework. The new IRF will ultimately set the context for the development of a new Single Regional Strategy to replace the Regional Spatial Strategy, Regional Housing Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy in due course.

The IRF is currently being finalised, but will be based around a number of Regional Challenges. These are:

- Sustainable transport
- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation
- Productivity and innovation
- Higher level skills and education
- Housing markets and affordability
- Public health and obesity
- Violent crime
- Diversity and equality
- Regional growth

The document will be endorsed by the full Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and submitted to Government by the end of December 2007.

The main priorities of the current Regional Housing Strategy, which will form part of the IRF, are:

1. **Creating better places** – responding to housing markets and improving neighbourhood infrastructure and facilities.
2. **Delivering better homes, choice and opportunity** – delivering choice and opportunity for all our people to meet their housing aspirations, and to improve housing condition and services for all.
3. **Ensuring fair access to quality housing** – being sure the requirements of all parts of communities are met by sensitive and appropriate housing solutions, and that obstacles faced by specific groups to accessing their housing choices are removed.

These priorities are reflected in Rotherham's Housing Strategy, and are addressed at the sub-regional level through Transform South Yorkshire (TSY). Comprising of the four South Yorkshire local authorities (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield), TSY has produced **A Sustainable Housing Market Strategy for South Yorkshire**, which sets out strategic objectives for the next five to ten years. They are:

1. **Balancing the housing markets** – addressing market overheating and undersupply in all tenures, tackling market weakness or failure, and delivering sufficient affordable housing.
2. **Quality housing and place making** – providing sustainable housing which is fit for future generations, which is of a type, design and standard that

people want in an attractive environment, and which contributes to mixed communities.

- 3. Achieving inclusion and access to housing** – enabling people to access the type of housing and related services that are right for them at that time.

This focus supports the wider growth agenda, which is vital to the future prosperity of Rotherham and the wider sub-region.

## **Rotherham Policy Context**

### **Community Strategy**

Rotherham's Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy is set within the wider strategic vision for Rotherham, which is set out in Rotherham Partnership's (the Local Strategic Partnership) Community Strategy.

The Community Strategy (2008-2011), which was developed through partnership with other agencies and consultation with local communities, is built around five strategic themes:

- Rotherham Learning
- Rotherham Safe
- Rotherham Achieving
- Rotherham Proud
- Rotherham Alive

Improving quality of life and ensuring sustainable communities underpins the Community Strategy, with housing and neighbourhood issues identified as priorities for action. The delivery of the Housing & Neighbourhood Strategy will support delivery of several of the broad strategic objectives set out in the Community Strategy. (Insert examples of new housing and neighbourhood priorities from updated Community Strategy).

Although the Housing & Neighbourhood Strategy has strong links to all five strategic themes, it is particularly linked to the SAFE theme, with the Strategic Housing Partnership (SHP) reporting to the Safe Theme Board.

### **RMBC's Corporate Plan**

The Council's vision is aligned to the five strategic themes set out in the Community Strategy, and is set out in detail in the Corporate Plan 2005-2010, which identifies priorities relating to economic, social and environmental well-being.

The Corporate Plan places housing and neighbourhood issues at the centre of the Council's agenda for change, and has particular targets focused on creating places where people want to live, which are clean, green and free from crime, and on providing decent homes for all.



### **Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and Local Area Agreement**

Both the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan are underpinned by the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS) and Local Area Agreement (LAA), which were developed by Rotherham Partnership.

The NRS is integral to the delivery of Rotherham's Community Strategy, and sets out the commitment of the LSP to close the gap between those communities that experience high levels of deprivation and the rest of the Borough. It identifies particular localities with high levels of multiple-deprivation. It also highlights communities of interest that face higher levels of multiple-deprivation. These are:

- Disadvantaged Black and Minority Ethnic Communities
- Disabled People and their Carers
- Vulnerable Older People and their Carers
- Children and Young People suffering deprivation

A Closing the Gap Action Plan has been produced to support the NRS, which includes neighbourhood level actions to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve quality of life. Actions will target the most deprived communities of interest and communities of place, where local evidence suggests they are not benefiting equally.

Rotherham's LAA supports the delivery of both the Community Strategy and NRS. Our priorities **(insert priorities from new LAA once agreed)**

### **Local Housing Related Strategies**

Supporting the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy are several related strategies. These give greater focus to particular aspects of the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy, and which in many cases have been developed on a multi-agency basis.

#### *Extra Care Housing Strategy 2004-2009*

This sets out the strategic direction for the development of extra care housing in Rotherham. It is built around Health, Housing and Social Services establishing a framework for the development of Borough-wide extra care housing provision. The Strategy seeks to develop a shift from long-term residential/nursing care, to community-based housing support and care services, which enable people to remain in the community as long as possible. Its development over recent years has offered an opportunity to people with differing dependency levels to live in a safe, secure environment, where their needs can be met in the community, thereby preventing inappropriate admission to residential care, and preventing deterioration and dependency.

#### *Homelessness Strategy*

The Homelessness Strategy is a working document that is not a stand alone policy, but clearly links to the Regional Housing Strategy objectives. The main aims of the Homeless Strategy are to reduce the use of temporary accommodation, provide an effective preventative service and address the needs of homeless people with multiple needs. In particular, the Strategy focuses on developing advice services

in the community, through the introduction of home visiting and outreach advice services, which will assist single homeless, young parents, ex- offenders, and women fleeing domestic violence. The Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008, **is currently being refreshed**, and is being reviewed in consultation with supported housing providers, statutory organisations and the voluntary sector.

***Supporting People Shadow Strategy***  
**Update required from Tim Gollins**

*BME Housing Strategy*

This document sets out a strategic approach to identifying and addressing the housing needs of Black and Minority Ethnic communities living in Rotherham. In particular it sets out actions to:

- Reduce inequalities across all housing services
- Promote community cohesion and equal opportunities
- Ensure services meet needs and aspirations of diverse communities
- Increase participation of BME communities

*Private Sector Housing Strategy and Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy*  
Agreed in 2007, the Private Sector Housing Strategy focuses on:

- Improving the condition of the private sector housing stock
- Improving access and choice within the private sector
- Improving management of the private sector
- Supporting vulnerable people to stay in their own homes and maintain their accommodation
- Improving the energy efficiency of private sector homes and reducing fuel poverty

Underpinning the Strategy is the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy. This sets out in detail the specific activities that the Council undertakes and supports, to address private sector housing issue.

*Rural Housing Strategy*

The Rural Housing Strategy aims to provide rural communities with high quality, sustainable housing which meets their needs and aspirations. Supporting the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy, it focuses on:

- Improved housing choice and affordability for people living in rural areas, thereby promoting cohesion and sustainable, balanced communities
- Housing which reflects the needs and aspirations of rural communities and support rural renaissance, thereby promoting choice and independence
- Improved quality of life for people living in rural areas of Rotherham

***Rotherham's Unitary Development Plan (UDP)/Local Development Framework (LDF)***  
**Update required from Nick Ward**

Insert diagram showing 'family of strategies', and how they link?

## **5. Our Achievements: 2005-2008**

The 2005-2007 Housing Strategy set out our plans for addressing the housing and neighbourhood challenges facing Rotherham. It identified key objectives, and set out what needed to be done to achieve them. It focused on four key themes, and the following sections outline progress made against those themes.

A significant part of this progress has been achieved due to effective project and performance management. We have also carried out equality impact assessments, consultation, customer surveys and focus groups to ensure that we learn from our customers. In addition, we are involved in a number of benchmarking clubs with other service providers and have continually evaluated the effectiveness of our services to ensure they are delivering customer priorities and provide value for money. Our Performance Management Framework has ensured that we remain focused on meeting both.

### **Strategic Theme 1 - Develop Neighbourhoods**

Alongside improvements to the quality of social housing and the restructuring of the housing market, the Housing Strategy also supported actions to address aspects of deprivation in Rotherham.

The key objectives of this theme were:

- Ensure investment supports neighbourhood sustainability
- Reduce crime and the fear of crime
- Tackle the inequalities between neighbourhoods
- Develop a community focused, multi-agency approach to neighbourhood management

Key actions:

- Completion of the group repair work in the Eastwood saw over 700 residents benefit from external improvements to their homes.
- Safer Neighbourhood Teams were established throughout the Borough.
- The Neighbourhood Warden Service was expanded, under the badge of the Rotherham Warden Service, to provide a service across the whole of Rotherham.
- "Secure by Design" measures, including high security doors and windows, were introduced to all housing improvement programmes,
- Alley-gating schemes were introduced in several areas experiencing high levels of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- A new system was introduced to make it easier to report anti-social behaviour incidents easier.
- Major sites at Laughton Common and Kiveton Park were redeveloped by private/Registered Social Landlord (RSLs) partnerships to provide a mixture of new housing for sale and rent. In addition, 124 unwanted dwellings were cleared to make way for new developments.
- A Respect Action Plan and Enviro-Crime Strategy were developed to address causes of neighbourhood nuisance.

Outcomes:

- Following completion of master-planning activity, investment from the Housing Market Renewal Programme has been targeted at the most deprived communities.
- Partnership working between the Rotherham Warden Service, Street Pride, South Yorkshire Police and others, through Safer Neighbourhood Teams, helped address crime and anti-social behaviour. In particular, Operation Impact tackled a number of 'hot spots'.

**Strategic Theme 2 - Ensure Decent Homes**

Government targets on Decent Homes require all Local Authorities to ensure that social housing meets standards of decency by 2010. Councils must also support the most vulnerable households living in private sector housing to achieve the same standard.

The key objectives of this theme were:

- Establish an ALMO to deliver Decent Homes and other high quality services.
- Attain Two Star Rating for Rotherham 2010 Ltd, enabling over £300 million to be invested into Rotherham's council housing stock.
- Achieve the Government's Decent Homes' targets for both social and private sector housing.
- Improve thermal comfort and energy efficiency levels across all tenures of housing.
- Ensure effective links between the Decent Homes programme and Transform South Yorkshire.

Key actions:

- Three major regeneration schemes were completed at Birks Holt, White Bear, and Wharncliffe resulting in improvements to 800 homes and the demolition of unpopular flats and maisonettes.
- Rotherham 2010 Ltd led work to ensure that 100% of Council owned dwellings meet the Decent Homes standard by 2010.
- Schemes were put in place to assist owner-occupiers improve their properties.
- Social housing saw a significant investment in energy efficient appliances and energy efficiency measures. In the private sector, a range of energy efficiency initiatives were promoted.
- Thermal imaging took place in order to identify properties at risk of poor thermal efficiency.
- A private sector stock condition survey was completed, which identified the number of vulnerable households living in non-decent homes.
- An empty homes policy was developed, with targeted enforcement action taking place to bring empty properties back into use.
- The Rotherham Quality Landlord accreditation scheme has helped improve standards in the private rented sector.

- The Home Improvement Agency contract was re-tendered with robust new targets introduced to improve private sector decency.

Outcomes:

- The quality of life for Council tenants has been improved through the programme of Decent Homes work, giving people modern bathrooms and kitchens. At the same time, targeted schemes have enabled us to ensure that our goal of achieving 70% of vulnerable households in the private sector living in decent homes by 2010 is realised.
- As a result of energy efficiency work in Council dwellings, the energy efficiency ratings of homes have increased, making a significant contribution to reducing fuel poverty in Rotherham. Energy efficiency initiatives in the private sector have also helped to improve thermal comfort and reduce fuel poverty.

**Strategic Theme 3 – Renew the Housing Market**

The Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder (HMRP) programme has been a real opportunity for Rotherham to tackle significant areas of housing that have suffered from weak housing market conditions. The HMRP played a pivotal role in renewing housing markets across South Yorkshire, offering real choice and quality in areas dominated by poor quality housing.

The key objectives of this theme were:

- Improve the character and diversity of neighbourhoods
- Provide high quality, iconic housing in the Borough
- Create a new urban community in the Town Centre
- Increase the range and diversity of accommodation

Key actions:

- Area Development Frameworks, masterplans and housing investment strategies were produced for the HMR areas following extensive consultation. £18.2 million was secured for 2006/08 to deliver Rotherham's projects.
- Planning and development briefs were produced for two large development sites in the north of the Borough, aligned to the Local Development Framework.
- A review of sheltered housing was undertaken to ensure that only those which are sustainable were retained. Where schemes were closed, excellent progress was been made, with plans produced for redevelopment of the cleared sites.
- Exiting plans for the revitalisation and transformation of the town centre were developed, with work underway to deliver a number of projects that will both improve facilities and increase the population.
- An eco-housing scheme at Henley has provided 23 homes maximum energy efficiency homes.

Outcomes:

- Significant regeneration activity took place across HMR areas, improving properties, green spaces and the local environment. Previous low-demand areas are now sought after places to live.
- Ambitious plans to revitalise the Town Centre are being delivered. The first Living Over the Shops scheme, comprising 14 dwellings in shared ownership, was completed in 2007 with all units taken.

**Strategic Theme 4 – Provide Fair Access and Choice**

The Council built on the success of the Supporting People programme, by ensuring that there is a choice of suitable housing and support services available to those that need it. There has been a significant emphasis on developing customer focused housing solutions. This is wider than homelessness and access to council accommodation; the approach also ensures that people receive the support they need to maintain their own home and remain independent.

The key objectives of this theme were:

- Prevention of Homelessness
- Securing suitable, quality housing
- Supporting individual needs and hard to reach groups
- Improving accessibility and choice for those with lower incomes

Key actions:

- A pool of dispersed and overnight dwellings was established to ensure that homeless persons do not have to use bed and breakfast accommodation whilst their circumstances are investigated.
- Personal Housing Plans were introduced.
- A new women's refuge was established.
- Over 160 units of furnished accommodation were provided for rent.
- A Choice Based Lettings scheme was launched in June 2005 under the "Key Choices" brand.
- A BME Housing Strategy was introduced to address local Black & Minority Ethnic housing needs.
- A new floating support services was procured through the Supporting People Programme.
- A contract for Asylum Seekers and Refugees was successfully renegotiated with the Yorkshire and Humberside Consortium
- An independent review of the Adaptations Services was undertaken, leading to the development of a customer-led integrated one stop adaptation service.

Outcomes:

- As a result of pro-active work, homeless presentations and the use of B&B accommodation fell.

- Following the launch of the popular Property Shop, customers now have greater say over where they live.



## **6. Consultation and Research**

The Housing & Neighbourhood Strategy was developed through extensive consultation carried out with stakeholder organisations and communities of interest. Consultation took place between July and October 2007. A list of stakeholder organisations/communities of interest consulted can be found at Appendix 1.

Below are the broad issues raised during the consultation, which fall under six main headings:

### ***Social Housing***

Action is needed to preserve (and increase) the current level of social housing stock for future generations; there needs to be greater choice of housing, particularly for older people and people with disabilities; BME communities need support, through the allocation process, to move outside traditional residential areas; more needs to be done to improve the image of social housing and housing estates; new tenants, particularly younger tenants and those from vulnerable groups, need greater tenancy support to avoid getting into arrears and other difficulties.

### ***New housing and affordability***

New housing developments need to meet the requirements of the local market in terms of affordability and housing type; there is a need for more four bedroom homes to meet the needs of larger families; affordability needs to be addressed in rural areas to ensure the future sustainability of these communities; more needs to be done to raise awareness of shared ownership schemes and equity release to fund repairs; environmental considerations, including recycling facilities, need to be designed into new build housing; there should be emphasis on quality design, but also on the quality of the management of new schemes.

### ***Choice***

There should be greater choice over location and house type, particularly in the social housing sector; new developments should be designed according to Lifetime Homes standards; the use of Assistive Technology should be explored to support vulnerable people remain in the own homes; consideration should be given to supporting 'self-help' activity, particularly to help older people remain in their own homes; access to services could be improved by removing language and other barriers; housing services need to be more widely publicised; there needs to be long-term tenancies in the private rented sector to promote greater security for tenants; there should be early intervention across tenures to prevent homelessness.

### ***Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour***

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour are key factors in determining the desirability of a neighbourhood; litter, vandalism and drugs are particular concerns; alcohol misuse amongst young people is perceived to be an increasing problem; neighbourhoods would benefit from an increased police/warden presence on the streets; the response to problem tenants in both the social and private rented sector needs to be strengthened; support services for both tenants and private landlord should be expanded; the enforcement process should be simplified with tenants and owner

occupiers being held accountable for their actions; more needs to be done to inform residents/tenants about who they should contact with housing problems.

***Amenities and facilities***

Wider issues, such as access to leisure facilities, employment, education and transport, must be taken into consideration when planning new housing; investment in neighbourhood based leisure facilities would help promote integration between groups; increased provision of youth clubs/positive activities for young people would promote a sense of ownership in community resources; social facilities for older people ought to be expanded at a neighbourhood level; dropped kerbs and crossings should be planned to take into consideration people with mobility problems.

***Community Involvement, openness and transparency***

General awareness about housing services needs to be raised; services need to reach out into the community through outreach surgeries, which could operate in partnership with other services; many consultees did not understand the role of the Area Assemblies, and felt that they need to be better publicised; communities welcomed opportunities to become involved in Council decision making, but wanted feedback to be given; more information about progress with regeneration projects is needed.

These issues were also reflected in consultation carried out by the seven Area Assemblies in autumn 2007.

As well as consultation, the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy has been informed by research. In particular, a Strategic Housing Market Assessment and a Private Sector Stock Condition Survey have influenced the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy.

**Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)** – this is a wide ranging report, which looks at a range of housing issues relevant to Rotherham. The SHMA was developed through extensive research, which included a survey of over 2,700 households and engagement with stakeholders (including developers and property agents), as well as desktop research.

The SHMA concludes that RMBC has made extensive progress in dealing with housing issues. However, the SHMA highlights a number of challenges and issues that need addressing. In particular:

- There are substantial housing market gaps in Rotherham, which means that the local housing 'ladder' is not an easy one to climb.
- New build housing is mainly available for sale and social rent, in other words, at the extreme ends of the market. There is little new build housing in between.
- The SHMA suggests that the Council sets out an affordable housing policy of 25%, to include both social rented and intermediate accommodation. It suggests the target might be split 11% intermediate housing and 14% social

rented, and should apply to all housing sites capable of accommodating 15 or more units of housing.

- In rural areas, the affordable housing threshold could be lowered where there is sufficient evidence of need for the Council to consider implementing a rural exceptions policy.
- There is an identified annual target of 800 new build units. In terms of size of dwellings, the main extra market demand is for 2-bedroom types, with some 4-bedroom demand.
- There is scope within the Rotherham market for a modes, e.g. 10%, target for low cost market housing (normally New Build HomeBuy).
- BME households have particularly high levels of housing need.
- Specialist housing provision for and improvements to current accommodation of people with support needs should be examined.
- Under-occupation amongst older person households is a key issue, which presents the opportunity for larger accommodation to be vacated to help reduce mismatch in both the social and private sectors.

**Private Sector Stock Condition Survey (PSSCS)** – this is a wide ranging assessment of the profile and condition of Rotherham’s private sector housing stock (owner-occupied and private rented dwellings). The PSSCS was developed through extensive research, which included a physical survey of almost 1,900 dwellings.

The PSSCS concludes that Rotherham, generally, shows better dwelling conditions than those found nationally. However, the PSSCS identifies that the condition of Rotherham’s private sector housing presents a number of challenges and issues that need addressing. In particular:

- The focus for action should be on private rented dwellings, terraced houses, flats (particularly converted flats), pre-1919 stock, dwellings with vulnerable households and single pensioner households.
- Consideration should be given to a wide-range of measures (including finance from the local authority and the use of landlords’/owners’ own finances, as well as advice) to achieve improvements to the housing stock and prevent further deterioration.
- The Council needs to develop policies that will bring properties requiring action to its attention.
- Households occupying properties with existing or potential condition problems should be encouraged to make themselves known to the Council.
- In the owner-occupied sector, the Council should encourage the use of equity to fund repairs.
- In the private rented sector, the Council should work with landlords and tenants to create policies to ensure action and enforcement, where necessary, by advising them of their responsibilities and rights.
- Improving the energy efficiency is a priority. Encouraging or part-funding improvements to insulation and central heating systems should be seriously considered in terms of long term cost and energy savings.
- Further work is needed to identify issues relating to vacant properties.

## 7. Main Challenges

As section 4 highlights, significant achievements have been made through the delivery of the 2005-2008 Housing Strategy. However, as highlighted through the sections on the policy context, and consultation and research, there remain considerable challenges.

This section briefly presents these challenges under the **five** headings of the updated Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy. These are:

- **Places for People**
- **Decent Homes for All**
- **Meeting Housing Need and Market Demand**
- **Improving Access, Choice and Independence**
- **Working Together**

### Theme 1: Places for People

The focus of this theme is on:

- Strategic Objective 1.1: Supporting a range of targeted interventions to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Strategic Objective 1.2: Ensuring housing and neighbourhood investment promotes balanced and well connected communities
- Strategic Objective 1.3: Ensuring effective management of neighbourhoods
- Strategic Objective 1.4: Protecting and enhancing the environment
- Strategic Objective 1.5: Putting in place mechanisms to prevent and reduce tensions between communities, and promote community cohesion

Deprivation in the Borough is falling, with evidence showing that Rotherham, as a whole, is closing the gap with the national average across a range of National Floor Targets.

However, despite the progress that has been made, there remain some communities, both of place and interest, where inequalities persist; not all communities are benefiting equally, and consequently the gap is widening between these communities and the rest of the Borough. As a result, focused attention on 'closing the gap' has been identified as a priority for the Council and its partners.

A Closing the Gap Action Plan has been developed to challenge the most acute drivers to deprivation in Rotherham. Particularly relevant to the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy is the focus on tackling anti-social behaviour and areas of high crime. However, other issues, such as income deprivation, adult skills, worklessness and participation in sport and physical activity are also important measures of success in creating sustainable communities – places where people want to live.

The Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy plays an important role in supporting the approach to closing the gap, and in creating places where people want to live. For example, through the previous Housing Strategy, HMRP investment was focused on areas of multiple-deprivation.

The key challenge through this theme is to work at a neighbourhood level to develop sustainable communities, where there is:

- A flourishing local economy to provide jobs and wealth
- Strong leadership to respond positively to change
- Effective engagement and participation of local people, groups and businesses
- A safe and healthy environment with well-designed public space
- Sufficient size, scale, density and layout to support basic amenities and minimise use of resources
- Good transport infrastructure
- Buildings that can meet needs of the community
- A well-integrated mix of decent homes of different types and tenures to support a range of household sizes, ages and incomes
- Good quality local public services, including education and training opportunities, health care and community facilities, especially for leisure
- A diverse and vibrant local culture, encouraging pride and cohesion
- A 'sense of place'
- The right links with the wider regional, national and international community

These issues cut across the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy, as well as wider Council and Rotherham Partnership strategies.

## **Theme 2: Decent Homes for All**

The focus of this theme is on:

- Strategic Objective 2.1: Meeting the Decent Homes targets for social housing
- Strategic Objective 2.2: Ensuring a customer focused repairs service for council housing stock
- Strategic Objective 2.3: Addressing decency in non-traditional properties
- Strategic Objective 2.4: Ensuring that vulnerable groups in the private sector live in Decent Homes
- Strategic Objective 2.5: Ensuring effective enforcement activity
- Strategic Objective 2.6: Improving energy efficiency across all housing tenures

Since 2005 the Council has worked with 2010 Rotherham Ltd to deliver a £313 million programme of investment to ensure that the Borough's council housing meets the Government's Decent Homes Standard. At the same time, the Council has worked with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in the Borough to ensure that

their properties meet the same challenging standard. Work on these programmes will continue, and needs to be effectively managed, to ensure that the target of achieving decency by 2010 is accomplished.

However, social housing only accounts for 20% of housing in the Borough, and as standards rise in the social sector, the challenge is to ensure **decent homes for all** by ensuring that the 80% of properties in the private sector (both owner occupied and private rented), particularly those occupied by vulnerable groups, meet the same quality standards.

As the recent Private Sector Stock Condition Survey confirmed, the private sector housing stock in the Borough is generally good quality, but there are challenges specifically relating to private rented dwellings, terraced houses, flats (particularly converted flats), pre-1919 stock, and dwellings with vulnerable households and single pensioner households.

Action is required to further support and encourage (and where necessary, enforce) owner occupiers and private landlords to improve their properties. However, it is unrealistic to expect that this will be achieved without public intervention, and so action is required to maximise the amount of funding available to support the delivery of this target.

Improving the energy efficiency is also a priority, and fits in with the wider agenda of promoting environmental sustainability. Action to encourage and support improvements to insulation and central heating systems are a challenge and priority.

### **Theme 3: Meeting Housing Need and Market Demand**

The focus of this theme is on:

- Strategic Objective 3.1: Improving the range and diversity of housing
- Strategic Objective 3.2: Building new social housing
- Strategic Objective 3.3: Providing high quality, aspirational homes
- Strategic Objective 3.4: Tackling affordability in the housing market
- Strategic Objective 3.5: Retaining and make best use of existing stock
- Strategic Objective 3.6: Addressing pockets of low demand
- Strategic Objective 3.7: Ensure effective understanding of housing need, housing demand and stock condition

Over the last three years, considerable activity has taken place through the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder (HMRP) to regenerate run down areas and address low demand. During this period, Area Development Frameworks, masterplans and housing investment strategies were produced for the HMR areas. By working through Transform South Yorkshire, £18.2 million was secured for 2006/08 to deliver Rotherham's projects.

At the same time, the housing market changed considerably as a consequence of significant price increases nationally, regionally and locally. The 2007 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) highlighted the fact that prices in Rotherham had risen significantly over the previous five years, with an average increase of around 100% (and much higher for some property types). The impact of the changes in the housing market has been a marked swing away from low demand towards difficulties with affordability for people attempting to enter the housing market. One effect of this has been an increase in the number of people registered on the Council's housing waiting list, which increased from 16,000 in 2005 to 21,000 at the end of 2007.

On the issue of affordability, the SHMA identified that the average income level in 2007 was £21,811. However, average property prices (whilst relatively low in Rotherham when compared with regional and national averages) were estimated to be £132,000 at the end of 2006. A survey of estate and letting agents, conducted as part of the SHMA, identified an entry-level (2 bedroom) price of around £81,000, with private rents (again for a two bed home) typically starting at around £370 per month. When income is compared with housing costs, the SHMA revealed that many households spent more than a quarter of their income on their housing costs. The SHMA also looked at the financial situation of potential newly forming households. The income level of this group is particularly low, and is a cause for concern with regards to their ability to access the housing market without some form of subsidy

Housing affordability in rural areas also presents a challenge. The SHMA has identified higher levels of housing need in rural areas, due to higher prices and a lack of supply. These issues are being addressed through the Borough's Rural Housing Strategy.

The issue of housing affordability is closely linked to the issue of housing supply. The population of the Borough is growing, with people living longer and living in smaller 'family' units. In addition, the Borough is also experiencing migration, both from other parts of the Region (notably from Sheffield, which is experiencing greater issues with affordability), and through the migration of EU nationals and others. All of these factors, together with years of undersupply, are having an effect on housing need, with the SHMA indicating an annual need of 800 additional units.

The Housing Green Paper, *Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable*, has emphasised the Growth Agenda: the need for more housing, and the need for affordable housing. These issues link to the promotion of wider economic prosperity across the sub-region. The challenge for Rotherham is to work with partners and developers to address the gaps in the housing market in order to promote greater affordability and to meet housing need. As a Borough we have identified significant housing development as a key to growth, and are keen to see developments, such as Waverley, move forward.

However, issues of low demand remain in small pockets across the Borough, particularly where there are large concentrations of private rented housing, experiencing high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Specific interventions, including selective demolitions, are required to address these issues.

As well as addressing affordability and low demand, action is also required to meet the challenge of providing aspirational homes. The SHMA identified the need for larger homes for larger families, as well as more two-bed roomed homes for single-people households. The Council and its partners are also developing town centre living spaces, as part of the Rotherham Renaissance initiative to promote Living Over the Shops. In addition, housing developments at, for example, Waverley and Manvers, will help to promote a wider choice of homes.

Finally, the housing need of specific groups presents a challenge. The population of the Borough is growing, but it is also ageing. Rotherham has a growing population of people with individual housing needs relating to disability and old age. In addition, the Borough is experiencing a change in the ethnic make-up of its population, and this is also having an impact of housing needs. Actions to address these issues are largely picked up through the theme on **Access, Choice and Independence**, but there is also a challenge which relates to ensuring an adequate supply of appropriate accommodation for all.

#### **Theme 4: Improving Access, Choice and Independence**

The focus of this theme is on:

- Strategic Objective 4.1: Improving customer insight and customer satisfaction
- Strategic Objective 4.2: Promoting choice for BME communities
- Strategic Objective 4.3: Supporting independent living for people with disabilities, older people and young people
- Strategic Objective 4.4: Improving access to social housing and private rented accommodation
- Strategic Objective 4.5: Providing housing and neighbourhood advice to people across all tenures
- Strategic Objective 4.6: Preventing homelessness

As indicated in the section above, the population of Rotherham is changing. In particular the population is ageing, and this presents a number of challenges linked to the way in which we support people with independence and choice.

In addition, many communities in the Borough need support to access housing and neighbourhood services.

At the same time, the way in which people wish to access our services is changing. The Council and our partners need to become more customer focused, and ensure that the services that we are providing are not only accessible, but are delivered in ways that our customers want to receive them. The focus is on innovation, and personalised services. A good example of this is the work that we have done on Choice Based Lettings.

An important issue to address in relation to the theme of improving access, choice and independence is having greater customer insight. Basically, this is about



understanding who our customers are and how they want to engage with/receive services.

The SHMA provided useful information on the housing needs of key groups in the community:

*Black and Minority Ethnic Households:*

- 4.3% of households are headed by someone from a BME group, 47% of these were South Asian origin.
- South Asian households are particularly distinct from other ethnic groups. On average, they are almost twice as large, with very few single person households. They are a relatively low income group, with 50% of households earning less than £13,250 per annum. This group is also much less likely to live in social housing, despite having a far higher levels of overcrowding, unsuitable housing and affordable housing need than any other group.

*Households with Support Needs:*

- Some 17.3% of Rotherham's households (18,471) contain someone with support needs. The largest category of support needs is those with physical or mobility impairment. There are 13,017 households containing a person in this group. The second largest group is frail elderly, with 3,494 households having someone in this category.
- Support needs households in Rotherham are generally smaller than average for the Borough, and are disproportionately made up of older persons only. Support needs households are more likely than other households to be in unsuitable housing.
- Support needs households have a requirement for a wide range of adaptations and improvements to the home. Level access shower units and lifts or stair lifts are the most commonly required.

*Young People Support Needs*

- The SHMA reveals that younger people are more strongly associated with 'a mental health problem' and a 'learning disability'. The survey showed that households containing a member aged between 16 and 30 are more likely to contain someone with these support needs than any other support need
- There is evidence of need for greater provision for young people with support needs in the Borough, with there being a marked an increase in the number of people presenting as homeless due to a lack of support provision.
- Young people and those with complex and chaotic lifestyles, including people with drug and alcohol issues, are particularly in need of direct access services.

*Older Person Households:*

- An estimated 25.7% of households in Rotherham contain older persons only, and a further 7.8% contain a mix of both older and non-older persons. Older person only households are largely comprised of one or two persons; a finding which will have implications for future caring patterns.

- Older people are not strongly concentrated in any one area or type of dwelling, although 28.8% live in bungalows. Older person households tend to be owner-occupied without a mortgage, but a third of social rented accommodation is used by older person households. This may have implications for the need for accommodation suitable for frail elderly households.
- Despite the small size of older person households, they do not show a particularly strong tendency to live in smaller dwellings. This indicates substantial potential capacity for family housing, should older person households move. However, because the majority of these households live in owner-occupied accommodation, opportunities here are likely to be limited. However, about 2,300 under-occupied older person only households are in social rented accommodation, showing some scope for increasing supply in this tenure by reducing under-occupation

*Homeless Households:*

- Historically, homeless levels in Rotherham have been slightly lower than regional and national averages.
- Recent figures indicate a trend of reducing homelessness, with 302 homeless cases being accepted during 2006/07 (averaging 25 cases per month), compared with 306 during 2005/06 (averaging 26 cases per month) and 694 cases during 2004/05 (average of 58 cases per month).
- One reason for Rotherham's falling homeless acceptances has been the attempt to implement holistic homelessness policies which seek to both prevent, and respond to the needs, of homeless households.

*Overcrowding and under occupation:*

- Levels of overcrowding in Rotherham are relatively high when compared with regional data, but are below latest national estimates (overcrowding is concentrated amongst certain groups and areas within the Borough).
- A significant number of households are under-occupying dwellings, with the 'bedroom standard' suggesting that over a third of all households in Rotherham are under-occupying.
- Overcrowded households tend to have low incomes and are more likely than other households to be looking to move to alternative accommodation.
- There appears to be considerable scope to reduce levels of under-occupation in the owner-occupied sector, providing that suitable accommodation can be provided.
- In the social rented sector, the scope for reducing under-occupation appears more limited, with only a small number of households seeking to 'downsize' and relatively few of these being from the key group likely to be the focus for any policy response, i.e., the elderly.

*Gypsy and Travellers*

A study of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in South Yorkshire was commissioned in 2006 by the four South Yorkshire authorities. The aim of the study was to assess the current levels of need across the sub-region. Key findings include:

- A total of 16 pitches are required in Rotherham to meet the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population between 2006 and 2011.
- The majority of Gypsies and Travellers live in mobile homes, however, a significant proportion (40%) live in bricks and mortar accommodation. The private rented sector accounts for 39% of all those living in bricks and mortar accommodation. This stresses the importance of the private rented sector in meeting the needs of this group in Rotherham.

### **Theme 5: Working Together**

The focus of this theme is on:

- Strategic Objective 5.1: Improving multi-agency working
- Strategic Objective 5.2: Developing the role of Area Assemblies and neighbourhood management
- Strategic Objective 5.3: Improving consultation and community involvement
- Strategic Objective 5.4: Developing elected member involvement
- Strategic Objective 5.5: Enabling community ownership and management of assets

Rotherham MBC recognises that it cannot, by itself, deliver the changes necessary to achieve places for people, provide decent homes for all, meet housing need and market demand, and improve access, choice and independence. To achieve these ambitions, the Council needs to involve communities and work with a range of partners.

Over the last few years, the Council has worked in partnership and consultation with a wide range of communities, statutory organisations, the voluntary and community sector and the private sector. Examples include:

- Working with council housing tenants to establish Rotherham 2010 Ltd, the Borough's Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO).
- Working in partnership with Registered Social Landlords and private sector developers to realise ambitions for new, affordable homes.
- Establishing multi-agency Safer Neighbourhood Teams to tackle crime and Anti-Social Behaviour hotspots.
- Achieving significant progress in addressing deprivation and increasing participation through the Eastwood & Springwell Gardens Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder.
- Re-launching Area Assemblies, and producing community based Area Plans to deliver community priorities.

Building on these achievements will be a significant challenge of this theme. However, the agenda for greater involvement and partnership working is moving forward. For instance, the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides for greater powers for parish councils, and introduces a

strengthened Community Call for Action, which gives individual councillors the power to refer any issue to Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Government also sees a greater role for communities in managing and owning public assets. The Quirk Review outlined proposals to transfer ownership of community assets, such as community buildings, to community organisations. At the same time, the Government has outlined proposals to make it easier for tenants to take over the management of social housing through Tenant Management Organisations.

The Improving Access, Choice and Independence theme identifies the need for improved customer insight, in order to ensure we understand the characteristics of our customers and how they want to engage with services. At the same time, we also need to ensure that we have effective consultation mechanisms in place, to ensure that the views of local people and other stakeholders are taken into account when we are developing services and making decisions about local neighbourhoods.

Indeed, devolution of local decision-making and neighbourhood management are key themes of the Government's agenda for changes. In Rotherham we have made good progress, and the Council's Our Future Action Plan has addressed how these issues should be taken forward. Key actions include:

- Developing mechanisms to devolve powers to the community.
- Developing and implementing strong Area Assembly leadership and lines of accountability.
- Developing and introducing a local Community Call for Action protocol to enable local Councillors to respond to community issues.
- Aligning investments and services to meet community priorities for each Area Assembly.
- Undertaking a review of the Single Consultation and Community Involvement Plan.
- Putting in place Community Asset Register for each Area Assembly.
- Reviewing, developing and implementing multi-agency charters tailored to individual Area Assemblies.
- Evaluating the findings from Eastwood and Springwell Gardens Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder.

Finally, in order to deliver many of the ambitions set out in this Strategy, it will be important to develop relationships with neighbouring local authorities. The Government has identified Multi-Area Agreements as a key to taking sub-regional relationships forward. Rotherham is well placed to move forward with this work, by building on the activity that has taken place through Transform South Yorkshire to deliver the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder programme.

## **8. Focusing On Delivery - What Are We Going To Do**

**Note: issues identified in this section require detailed discussion, the outcomes of which will help inform the action plan. This is a first draft of the Strategy, and there will be omissions, duplications and areas that are not priorities for the final strategy – suggestions from service deliverers are needed on what is achievable.**

The sections above set out:

- The strategic policy framework that we are working within
- Details of our achievements
- The outcome of consultation and research undertaken
- The main challenges facing housing and neighbourhoods in Rotherham

This section takes these issues into account and, theme by theme, sets out what we will do to deliver the 2008-2011 Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy (a detailed action plan can be found at appendix 2).

### **Theme 1: Places for People**

In order to achieve the objectives set out under this theme, the Council and its partners will need to deliver housing investment that supports wider neighbourhood regeneration. Consultation has identified the importance of decent and affordable homes. However, other issues, such as the local environment, crime and anti-social behaviour, and access to services are equally important. Details of what we will do to address specific objectives are set out below.

*Strategic Objective 1.1: Support a range of targeted interventions to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour – we will work with our partners through the Safer Rotherham Partnership to ensure a co-ordinated approach to tackling ASB, crime and the fear of crime. We will further develop the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, and develop the role of the Rotherham Wardens Service to reduce ASB, crime and the fear of crime. To ensure value for money, we will target resources at vulnerable localities. We will continue to implement Secure by Design principles in all housing programmes, and will introduce alley-gating schemes where there is a demonstrable need. We will implement the Respect Action Plan.*

*Strategic Objective 1.2: Ensure housing and neighbourhood investment promotes balanced and well connected communities – we will ensure that investment supports neighbourhood sustainability by developing a local sustainability model, which will be used to inform housing developments, and help identify neighbourhoods that are at risk of decline. We will work with developers and RSLs to promote affordable housing, and mixed tenure housing developments with good access to a range of services, employment, leisure and transport infrastructure.*

*Strategic Objective 1.3: Ensure effective management of neighbourhoods – we will continue to develop a community focused, multi-agency approach to neighbourhood management. We will continue to develop the Rotherham Quality Landlord Scheme to promote good management of private rented properties. We*

will develop the role of Neighbourhood Champions to further support effective management of neighbourhoods.

*Strategic Objective 1.4: Protect and enhance the environment* – we will work with RSLs and developers to ensure that new homes meet eco-homes standards. We will encourage housing and neighbourhood design which enhances and protects the local environment. We will ensure that housing developments make best use of land resources by supporting the development of brownfield sites across the Borough. We will promote sustainable building practice. We will seek further opportunities to develop eco-housing developments.

*Strategic Objective 1.5: Put in place mechanisms to prevent and reduce tensions between communities, and promote community cohesion* – we will work through the Community Cohesion Partnership to promote initiatives that promote community cohesion. We will work with partners encourage positive neighbourhood-based activities for children and young people. We will support initiatives that promote intergenerational activities within neighbourhoods. We will deliver action plans to reduce racial incidents and domestic violence.

## **Theme 2: Decent Homes for All**

In order to achieve the objectives set out under this theme we need to secure substantial additional funding. In developing plans that meet the long-term objectives of decent homes and affordable warmth, we also need to work in partnership with RSLs, private sector landlords and developers.

*Strategic Objective 2.1: Meeting the Decent Homes targets for social housing* – we will continue to implement a programme of Decent Homes work for the Council housing stock. We will continue to work with RSLs to ensure that their housing stock meets decency standards.

*Strategic Objective 2.2: Ensuring a customer focused repairs service for council housing stock* – we will continue to deliver improvements to customers in order to retain our two-star status, and ensure progress towards three-star status. We will open up the repairs service to external competition in order to ensure value for money.

*Strategic Objective 2.3: Action to address decency in non-traditional properties* – we will complete an option appraisal to ensure that investment is taken forward on a strategic and planned basis, with the full involvement of the community. We will ensure that all of the options for intervention are considered, and that the investment decisions are part of a comprehensive plan for long-term sustainability.

*Strategic Objective 2.4: Ensuring that vulnerable groups in the private sector live in Decent Homes* – we will implement aspects of the Private Sector Housing Strategy and Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy that are aimed at ensuring decent homes for vulnerable groups. In particular, we will continue to develop a range of schemes and initiatives to support owner occupiers to improve their properties. Our Home Improvement Agency will take targeted action to address decency. We will take selective action to demolish private sector properties that are not decent.

*Strategic Objective 2.5: Effective enforcement activity* – we will aim to develop a proactive, risk-based approach to enforcement, with particular focus on the private rented sector. We will encourage landlords to achieve decent homes standards through a programme of education and advice. We will develop our approach to informing residents and tenants of their rights and responsibilities. We will take a proactive approach to ensuring that empty properties are brought back in to use.

*Strategic Objective 2.6: Improving energy efficiency across all housing tenures* – we will continue to promote and deliver schemes to encourage energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty. In particular, we will focus on vulnerable households. Our first eco-homes project will be completed. We will encourage developers to meet high standards of energy efficiency.

### **Theme 3: Meeting Housing Need and Market Demand**

The Neighbourhood Investment Team, utilising Housing Market Renewal, Housing Corporation and other funding will work with a range of partners to drive forward a housing investment agenda that meets housing need and market demand.

The development of Area Development Frameworks (ADFs), master plans and investment strategies has already allowed the Council to explore mechanisms to bring in grants that contribute to the improvement of private sector dwellings, address low demand and ensure long-term sustainability of neighbourhoods.

*Strategic Objective 3.1: Improve the range and diversity of housing* – we will prepare planning and development briefs for the redevelopment of specific areas, which promote a range of housing type and tenure. We will develop cleared sites in partnership with private sector developers, ensuring agreed numbers of affordable units are provided by our RSL partners. We will work with developers and RSLs to provide housing that meets the housing needs of Rotherham's diverse communities.

*Strategic Objective 3.2: Build new social housing* – we will seek out opportunities to build new Council housing in the Borough. We will work with RSLs to develop new social housing in areas of high housing need.

*Strategic Objective 3.3: Provide high quality, aspirational homes* – we will set high standards for new build across Rotherham and will provide high quality, iconic housing by encouraging developers to raise development standards. We will work with developers to increase the number of new build "high income" homes in Rotherham's attractive residential areas. We will continue our work to create a new urban community in Rotherham Town Centre, with aspirational Living Over the Shops apartments mixed in with new retail and leisure. We will take forward plans to develop an aspirational new 'town' at Waverley.

*Strategic Objective 3.4: Tackle affordability in the housing market* – we will implement an Affordable Housing Policy, which will provide opportunities to access appropriate accommodation at a reasonable price. We will work with planners and developers to maximise the amount of affordable housing available. We will continue to undertake land assembly to promote the development of affordable

housing. We will encourage and promote shared equity housing. We will implement our Rural Housing Strategy in order to focus on affordability issues in rural areas.

*Strategic Objective 3.5: Retain and make best use of existing stock* – we will encourage property owners to bring vacant dwellings back into use by implementing our Empty Homes Strategy. There will be a particular focus on nuisance properties and empty properties in areas where there is a high level of housing need, such as rural areas. We will explore options to limit the sale of social housing in areas of high housing need. We will carry out an options appraisal on non-traditional social housing to ensure a best value approach to retaining stock.

*Strategic Objective 3.6: Address pockets of low demand* – through targeted interventions and demolitions, we will continue to address areas of low demand that are affected by poor quality housing, crime and anti-social behaviour.

*Strategic Objective 3.7: Ensure effective understanding of housing need, housing demand and stock condition* – we will develop our understanding of the housing market and housing need by building on the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. We will further develop the work that we have undertaken on private sector stock condition.

#### **Theme 4: Improving Access, Choice and Independence**

The improving access, choice and independence theme places an emphasis on developing customer focused housing solutions. The starting point is, therefore, clear customer insight and a commitment to customer service standards.

This approach addresses housing need in its widest context by ensuring that our services are fit for purpose and provide value for money.

*Strategic Objective 4.1: Improving customer insight and customer satisfaction* – we will develop our approach to customer insight and customer satisfaction by building on the principles of Charter Mark and external accreditation. We will carry out regular satisfaction surveys, and use the results to shape our services. We will develop our approach to dealing effectively with customer feedback. We will work with our partners to achieve Level 5 of the Local Government Equality Standard.

*Strategic Objective 4.2: Promoting choice for BME communities* – we will further develop our BME Housing Strategy, with the aim of improving BME communities access to social and supported housing. We will implement the BME housing design code of practice. We will develop and implement our approach to meeting the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers. We will continue our work to ensure appropriate housing for Asylum Seekers and Refugees. We will undertake work to assess to housing needs of migrant workers and the impact on the community.

*Strategic Objective 4.3: Supporting independent living for people with disabilities, older people and young people* – following the review of the adaptation service, we will drive forward further improvements in the service to ensure that it meets the needs of our customers. We will encourage new homes that are built to Lifetime Homes standards, with the aim of supporting people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. We will continue to develop and deliver our approach to



Extra Care Housing to maintain independence, promote quality of life and reduce residential/hospital admissions. We will investigate opportunities to support self-help organisations to encourage independence in later life. We will provide support and advice to new tenants, particularly young people and other vulnerable groups, to reduce their risk of becoming homeless.

*Strategic Objective 4.4: Improving access to social housing and private rented accommodation* – we will further develop our approach to Choice Based Lettings by working with partners in RSLs, the private rented sector and neighbouring local authorities. We will continue to improve accessibility and choice for those on lower incomes through the promotion of move in packs.

*Strategic Objective 4.5: Providing housing and neighbourhood advice to people across all tenures* – we will review our approach to information provision with a view to offering an integrated one-stop shop. We will improve the quality and quantity of information available on-line and improve the ability to carry out e-transactions for housing and neighbourhood services. We will examine options to increase outreach services by working in partnership with other service providers.

*Strategic Objective 4.6: Preventing homelessness* – we will continue to build on our successes in reducing homeless presentations, and will implement an updated Homeless Strategy. In particular we will focus on reducing the usage of temporary accommodation, provide an effective preventative service and address the needs of homeless people with multiple needs. We will also develop advice services in the community, through home visiting and outreach advice services, which will assist single homeless, young parents, ex-offenders, and women fleeing domestic violence.

### ***Working Together***

The Council already has strong partnership arrangements in place, with the Strategic Housing Partnership and the Safe Theme Board both providing the focus for housing and neighbourhood issues.

However, we need to further develop our partnership work if we are to achieve the ambitions of the Housing and Neighbourhood Strategy.

*Strategic Objective 5.1: Improving multi-agency and sub-regional working* – we will continue to build on the success of the Strategic Housing Partnership, further develop the role of the SHP's sub-groups and ensure effective links to other LSP groups. We will work with our partners in neighbouring local authorities on City Region and Multi-Area Agreements that relate to housing and neighbourhood issues. We will further develop our relationship with Transform South Yorkshire for the benefit of Rotherham and the wider sub-region.

*Strategic Objective 5.2: Developing the role of Area Assemblies and neighbourhood management* – we will develop and implement strong Area Assembly leadership and lines of accountability throughout Area Assemblies. We will implement Area Plans across all seven Area Assemblies. We will develop mechanisms to devolve power to local communities, and will align investments and services to meet community priorities for each Area Assembly. We will develop and

implement multi-agency charters tailored to individual Area Assemblies. We will evaluate the findings from Eastwood and Springwell Gardens Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder.

*Strategic Objective 5.3: Improving consultation and community involvement* – we will put in place a Single Consultation and Community Involvement Plan to promote greater awareness and involvement.

*Strategic Objective 5.4: Developing elected member involvement* – we will develop and introduce a local Councillor Call for Action protocol to enable local Councillors to respond to community issues. Through the Scrutiny process, we will ensure early involvement of elected members in policy development.

*Strategic Objective 5.5: Enabling community ownership and management of assets* – we will put in place a Community Asset Register for each Area Assembly. We will work with tenant organisations to explore opportunities for greater tenant involvement in estate management.

## **9. How We Will Resource These Priorities**

Section on capital and revenue funding to be developed (built around specifics in action plan)

**10. *Reviewing the Housing & Neighbourhood Strategy and Performance Management***

Section to be drafted following consultation

## **Organisations Consulted**

- Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
- Senior Council Officers – NAS, EDS, C&YPS and CXD
- Elected Members
- Rotherham Partnership and LSP Theme Managers
- 2010 Rotherham Ltd
- Strategic Housing Partnership
- Housing Forum
- Area Partnership Managers
- Registered Social Landlords
- Private sector housing developers
- Rotherham Private Sector Landlords
- RotherFed
- Rotherham Chamber of Commerce
- Rotherham PCT
- South Yorkshire Police
- South Yorkshire Probation Service
- Prisons
- South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Voluntary and Community Sector organisations
- SpeakUp
- Youth Café
- Wentworth Parish Council
- General public
- Communities of interest – BME groups, Children and Young People, Older People, People with Disabilities
- Supporting People service users
- Housing and Neighbourhood services practitioners
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Government Office for Yorkshire & the Humber
- Yorkshire Forward
- Housing Corporation
- Regional Housing Board
- Transform South Yorkshire
- English Partnerships

***Action Plan***

To be developed during and following consultation period

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> February 2008</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Respect Action and Delivery Plan Refresh.</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services</b>

### **5. Summary**

The report presents the positive progress made in refreshing the Safer Rotherham Partnership's RESPECT Action and Delivery Plan and delivery of Key Action 1.1 within the Neighbourhood and Adult Services Service Plan 2007/10.

The Action and Delivery plan is seen as the vehicle to drive and co-ordinate cross partnership activity to deliver a top level priority of the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) i.e. reducing levels and addressing the poor public perception of anti-social behaviour in our communities.

The refresh is being steered by the RESPECT Priority Group and involves input and engagement from Directorates and partners represented on the group. The Corporate Management Team on the 5<sup>th</sup> November welcomed the good progress in refreshing the plan.

### **6. Recommendations**

**It is recommended that Members:**

- **Approves the Respect Action and Delivery Plan 2007/2010 for referral to the Cabinet for wider corporate endorsement**
- **Notes that the Respect Action and Delivery Plan will be presented to the next SRP Executive Group on the 20<sup>th</sup> February**

## 7. Proposals and Details

### Background

The SRP focused partners into addressing Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) in 2005 by the implementation of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for Rotherham. The actions in delivering the Strategy influenced positively the public's view of the issue in that the last BVPI General Survey showed a 14% reduction of ASB being perceived as a problem. This positive message, however, should not deter from the overall perception that ASB still remains a top priority for communities and this being reflected in the Community Safety Strategy 2005/08 and local Quality of Life Survey that indicated that 48% of the public still view it as a problem.

Drawing on the Government's national RESPECT Action Plan and its drive on the RESPECT Agenda a local Respect Action and delivery plan for Rotherham was developed for April 2007. This plan enhancing and replacing the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy.

Performance against plan is measured using the red, amber and green format, (RAG) and currently all actions are rated at green. The plan also shows completed actions to date (page 24 onwards). Actions are subject to regular update from action managers, and the direction of travel of the number of both "completed" and "on- target" actions is an indication of the level of positive activity, engagement, co-operation and accountability that now exists to ensure timely delivery of results. The broadening of the plan during the refresh has improved this already positive position.

### Refresh

Given continued delivery against actions in the plan and both national and local strategic priority re-alignment the plan has been reviewed and in doing so ensures that locally there is a robust and dynamic vehicle to drive and co-ordinate cross partnership activity. The plan ensures that the prioritisation through the SRP's Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment of anti-social behaviour and the Respect Agenda will be delivered.

The refresh re-examined the model of building the Rotherham plan around the six national Respect themes.

- Supporting families
- A New Approach to the most Challenging Families
- Improving behaviour and attendance in Schools
- Activities for Children and Young People
- Strengthening Communities
- Effective Enforcement and Community Justice

The view is that these six key themes are still key drivers for the plan as they reflect the significance of addressing issues around children, young people and families, as well as sense of community and enforcement activity and hence offer the greatest opportunity upon which to further develop the local context. It is noteworthy that nationally the RESPECT agenda is now placed within the Department of Children, Schools and Families rather than the Home Office and the Respect Task Force has been replaced with the Youth Task Force whose focus is to deliver positive outcomes for young people - including steps to prevent them getting into trouble and encouraging them to have respect for their community.



The main changes in the refresh are in the area of the Key Commitments (Appendix 1) and actions within the Delivery Plan (Appendix 2) that sit under each of the six key theme headings. Priority Group members representing all Directorates and partners have provided positive feed into the plan's development and 18 new actions have been introduced. This process has ensured that the plan retains focus on the priorities of the Safer Rotherham Partnership, ensures that it retains a local context and embraces a broader range of activity, including environmental issues, our more vulnerable localities and harder to reach groups.

## Performance Management

The overall effectiveness of the plan in addressing anti-social behaviour will continue to be monitored by the Safer Rotherham Partnership against a set of performance indicators under Priority 2, 'Respect' (Appendix 3). They include the following four Home Office mandatory indicators based on people's perceptions of anti-social behaviour taken from the tri-annual Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07. Above all others, they are the indicators that the Government will use to measure progress nationally in tackling anti-social behaviour. Performance against '1' below forms part of the Rotherham Local Area Agreement. A performance management framework has been put in place in respect of the seven individual strands of anti-social behaviour under target 1 below, that informs the Respect Priority Group on a monthly basis and the Safer Rotherham Partnership quarterly.

1. Reduce by 5%, the number of residents reporting by survey that various forms of anti-social behaviour are either a very big problem or a fairly big problem in their neighbourhood. Derived from responses to the seven individual ASB strands of:
  - Noisy neighbours/loud parties
  - Teenagers hanging around on the streets
  - Rubbish and litter lying around
  - People drunk and rowdy in public spaces
  - Abandoned or burnt out cars
  - Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles
  - People using or dealing drugs

*Baseline, 48% - Rotherham Quality of Life Survey 2006.*
2. Reduce by 5% the number of people who perceive parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children as a very or fairly big problem  

*Baseline 70% - Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07*
3. Reduce by 5% the number of people who perceive people not treating one another with respect and consideration as a very or fairly big problem  

*Baseline 56% - Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07*
4. Increase by 10% the number of people who feel very or fairly well informed about what the council is doing to tackle anti-social behaviour  

*Baseline 19% - Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07*

As these are perception based indicators derived from responses to survey, they will be measured annually through the Rotherham Quality of Life Survey. The next Local Government User Satisfaction Survey is scheduled to take place during 2009/10, the results of which will be compared against our 2006/07 BVPI survey performance (30% perceiving ASB at a "high level" (a 17% drop from 2003/04 survey results)). At this time the perception indicator is being maintained as one of the "top" 35 National Indicators going forward as part of the Local Area Agreement process.

## 8. Finance

It is planned for a number of the Key Commitments part of the plan to be professionally produced in brochure format for public circulation. The Design Studio is currently working on the lay-out and art-work in respect of this. It is estimated that 1000 colour copies will cost £650.

## 9. Risks and Uncertainties

Performance indicators based on public perception of a particular issue necessitate the requirement for an appropriate and robustly managed delivery plan, in conjunction with an effective communication strategy. Not having them in place would adversely affect the Partnership's drive in tackling anti-social behaviour.

## 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Considered and addressed during the process of replacing the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy with the Respect Action and Delivery Plan.

The RESPECT Action Plan contributes towards our key corporate strategic themes of:-

Rotherham Proud  
Rotherham Safe

These key themes are reflected within the Individual Well-being and Healthy Communities outcome framework, as follows:

- Improved quality of life – contributes to both reducing levels of anti-social behaviour and the perceived fear of anti-social behaviour
- Making a positive contribution – the plan seeks to promote the positive achievements of young people and draws on community information and intelligence to tackle particular areas of concern.

## 11. Background Papers and Consultation

Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2005/2008  
Respect Agenda  
Respect Action & Delivery Plan 2007/2010

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# The Safer Rotherham Partnership Respect Action Plan 2007 – 2010

## Foreword

The Governments Respect Agenda sets out a clear message. Stable families and strong, cohesive communities are important for children, young people and adults. They are the essential foundation within which individual potential is realised, quality of life maximised and social and economic wellbeing secured. There have been some excellent successes in Rotherham that have contributed to it being a safe place to live and work compared to similar areas. But there are still problems with the behaviour of some individuals and families which can make life miserable for others.

Anti-social behaviour by both adults and young people creates havoc for the communities around them. Where this happens it will not be allowed to go unchallenged. We will take tough action so that the majority of law-abiding, decent people no longer have to tolerate the behaviour of the few individuals and families that think they do not have to show respect to others.

The action plan represents our commitment to addressing anti-social behaviour in Rotherham and recognises that, as well as enforcement, we need to focus on its causes. Our activity will address the six key themes of:

- **Supporting families:** increasing the circumstances, and organisations that can apply for a parenting order; and expanding parenting provision.
- **A new approach to the most challenging families:** tackling the behaviour of ‘problem families’ by challenging them to accept support to change their behaviour, backed up by enforcement measures.
- **Improving behaviour and attendance in schools:** fostering a positive environment where teachers can teach and children can learn. Tackling poor attendance and behaviour in schools.
- **Activities for children and young people:** expanding the role of sport, constructive activities and volunteering as positive routes to nurture a culture of respect amongst young people, particularly those from deprived backgrounds.
- **Strengthening communities:** empowering people to stand up and challenge unacceptable behaviour in their communities and make public services more accountable to local people and local priorities.
- **Effective enforcement and community justice:** strengthening the powers available for frontline agencies as well as streamlining the case management of Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBO’s) within the courts. Also broadening the range of people able to use existing powers.

Photograph  
Joint Chairs of  
Safer Rotherham  
Partnership

## **What We Have Done**

With our partners we have made good progress in tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in Rotherham. The following are some examples of what we have put in place and how we are continuing to work towards reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour.

### **Introduced Area Assemblies**

The 7 Area Assemblies are providing the framework for Neighbourhood Management in Rotherham. Each Assembly co-ordinates local service delivery, oversees local initiatives and supports a range of consultation activities. They have a Co-ordinating Group that manages this process. The membership of this group includes elected members and representatives from partner agencies, Parish Councils and the local community. The key strategic documents that govern the Area Assemblies are the Area Assembly Plan and Neighbourhood Charter. The plan details the priorities and actions for each area and the charter provides the level of service standards for the area.

### **Safer Neighbourhood Teams**

Our seven Safer Neighbourhood Teams are aligned to the Area Assemblies and address local issues of crime and anti-social behaviour. South Yorkshire Police, Rotherham Council and 2010 Rotherham Ltd have achieved major reductions in motorcycle nuisance through multi-agency working operations. 'Operation Impact Days' have also resulted in more enforcement actions such as increased drug warrants and fixed penalty fines being issued.



Photograph of a Safer Neighbourhood Team

### **Joint Action Group**

This is a multi-agency information sharing forum that addresses crime and disorder issues identified by all of the partner agencies. It decides priorities, agrees action plans, allocates resources and ensures a co-ordinated response across Rotherham.

### **Neighbourhood Action Groups**

We have seven Neighbourhood Action Groups aligned to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. They co-ordinate services at a local level so that problem solving activity can take place and partners can support each other to achieve lasting, sustainable solutions to local issues.

## Enforcement Activity

Photograph of  
Enforcement Activity  
'Off-Road' Motorcycle  
Operation?

**Anti-Social Behaviour Orders** are issued by the Courts and are applied for by the Council, Police or other agreed agencies. To date there have been over **61** orders issued in Rotherham. **Acceptable Behaviour Contracts** can be made with anyone over the age of 10 years after a number of complaints have been received about their behaviour. After warnings, and if no improvement in behaviour is made, the individual enters into a contract outlining what behavioural changes they must make. Those who do not positively change their behaviour may be considered for **Anti-Social Behaviour Orders**. To date there have been over **1,221** contracts entered into in Rotherham. **Closure Orders** or Crack House Closures as they are more commonly known are applied to premises that have been used in connection with the unlawful use, production or supply of **Class A** controlled drugs such as heroin and cocaine and that the use of the premises is associated with occurrences of disorder or serious nuisance to members of the public. To date we have had **5** such closures in Rotherham. Between January 2006 and October 2007, **230 Underage Sales** operations by the Police and Trading Standards were carried out at premises to challenge the illegal sale of alcohol, fireworks and restricted substances. During these operations those found to be serving in contravention of the licence were issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice and the premises made subject of an action plan, final warning letter or a formal review of the licence on **39** occasions. Between September 2006 and October 2007 we mounted **42** joint Police and Local Authority operations against the illegal use of off-road motor vehicles. During these operations **154** illegal off-road vehicles were seized, **592** formal warnings issued and **30** Acceptable Behaviour Contracts entered into. This has contributed to a reduction of **59%** of complaints in relation to off-road motor vehicles compared to the same period last year.

## Diversionsary Projects

As well as our policy of robust enforcement, we also understand the importance of engaging with our young people and offering alternative routes to nurture a culture of respect. In addition to existing youth and play resources we have delivered diversionsary projects within the Borough including: **Crucial Crew**, which address with young people numerous issues including drugs, alcohol abuse, anti-social behaviour, personal safety and good citizenship. **Steer Clear**, which involves young people and the issues of auto-related crime and off-road motorcycles. **Fire Service Safe Project** in respect of arson and fire safety. The **Big Bang** Project held at the Magna Centre on Mischief Night that was attended by over 800 young people. We also have **mobile youth shelters** that can be sited at various locations around the Borough at the request of local communities. There are currently three dedicated **Children and Young People Police Officers**, in the borough with plans to increase this to seven. Their role is to work closely with Schools and other education departments to co-ordinate and support activity relating to children and young people.

Photograph of Diversionsary  
Project  
'Youth Shelter'?

Photograph of Rotherham  
Youth Cabinet Meeting

### Rotherham Youth Cabinet

The Rotherham Youth Cabinet has representation from 15 Secondary Schools, a Special School and also a local College. 30 to 50 young people attend the formal meetings 6 times a year. Four members also represent Rotherham on the UK Youth Parliament. When first initiated the Youth Cabinet agenda was adult led but has now moved to self determination with Young People chairing, co-chairing and planning all meetings and activity. As part of our commitment to engage young people in tackling issues within our communities, the Youth Cabinet has been allocated £35,000,00 to pump-prime projects and activity to address anti-social behaviour in Rotherham.

### Communication Campaigns

Numerous communication campaigns have been conducted in response to problem issues including the sale of fireworks to underage persons in the lead up to bonfire night, alcohol awareness and the inappropriate use of off-road and mini-motorcycles. An anti-social behaviour communication group has been formed by partners to ensure that all activity to address the problem is quickly communicated to the community.

### Appointed Key, Specialised Staff

We have employed a **Parenting Officer** and **Assistant Psychologist** to deliver a nationally recognised parenting programme to those families identified in the area who are experiencing difficulties contributing to anti-social behaviour. These core members of staff have worked with, or are currently working with in excess of **25** families that have been referred to them by various agencies including the Police, Social Services, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit and 2010 Rotherham Ltd. We have also put in a place a **Neighbourhoods Initiatives Manager** who will develop and implement short, medium and long term plans to ensure the sustainability of identified neighbourhoods.

Photograph of Specialised Officers  
'Neighbourhoods Initiatives Manager –  
Parenting Officer'

## Our Priority for 2007 – 2010

### **‘To reduce the incidence and impact of anti-social behaviour in our communities’**

#### **Our Targets**

To reduce the percentage of residents who feel that anti-social behaviour is either a very big problem or a fairly big problem in their neighbourhood from 48% in 2006 to at least 43% by 2008. ***(Derived from responses to the following types of Anti-Social Behaviour - Rotherham Quality of Life Survey 2006/07)***

- *Teenagers hanging around on the streets*
- *Vandalism, graffiti or other deliberate damage to property or vehicles*
- *People using or dealing drugs*
- *Rubbish and litter lying around*
- *People being drunk or rowdy in public spaces*
- *Abandoned or burnt out cars*
- *Noisy neighbours or loud parties*

To reduce the percentage of residents who feel parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children is either a very big problem or a fairly big problem in their neighbourhood from 70% in 2006 to at least 65% by 2008. ***(Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07)***

To reduce the percentage of residents who feel people not treating one another with respect and consideration is a very big problem or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood from 56% in 2006 to at least 51% by 2008. ***(Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07)***

To reduce the number of reports of off-road motor vehicle nuisance from 3,260 in 2004/05, to below 2,934 by 2008. ***(Community Safety Strategy 2005/08)***

To increase the percentage of residents who feel very well informed or fairly well informed about what the council is doing to tackle anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood from 19% in 2006 to at least 29% by 2008. ***(Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07)***

## What We Are Going To Do

In order to meet and exceed our targets, with our partners, we have made the following Key Commitments under each of the six Respect themes that, through a dedicated delivery plan, will drive our activity in tackling anti-social behaviour in the borough. These Key Commitments and progress of activity within the delivery plan will be subject of regular monitoring by the Safer Rotherham Partnership and the full plan will be refreshed annually.

### SUPPORTING FAMILIES

#### Key Commitments:

1. We will ensure the early identification of difficulties and problems faced by some families and with parents, provide appropriate interventions and support.
2. We will provide early access to family services in Rotherham to address the needs of children, young people and families.

### A NEW APPROACH TO THE MOST CHALLENGING FAMILIES

#### Key Commitments:

1. We will support families and improve parenting provision to tackle anti-social behaviour.
2. We will make available effective Parenting Programmes across Rotherham and where appropriate require families to take part.

### IMPROVING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOLS

#### Key Commitments:

1. We will work to improve behaviour and reduce bullying & harassment of children and young people by providing effective training for staff, implementing robust protocols and through the sharing of best practice.
2. We will reduce the number of cases referred to the Local Authority Non-School Attendance Panel by introducing school attendance panels and greater focus on early intervention and prevention.
3. We will carry out truancy patrols and make full, appropriate use of Fixed Penalty Notices for non-school attendance.



## ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Key Commitments:

1. We will increase engagement in positive activities for children and young people.
2. We will ensure the full delivery of Rotherham's Play Strategy.

## EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE

### Key Commitments:

1. We will use the full range of tools and powers available for tackling and reducing anti-social behaviour carry out targeted operations in identified priority areas.
2. We will keep our communities informed of the results of our targeted enforcement actions and in appropriate cases positively publicise the identity of individual persistent offenders.
3. We will increase customer satisfaction and confidence with the services provided to tackle anti-social behaviour.

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

### Key Commitments:

1. We will listen to our communities and put their priorities and concerns at the heart of all we do to tackle anti-social behaviour and promote positive citizenship
2. We will engage with children, young people, and hard to reach and vulnerable groups in developing our plans to reduce antisocial behaviour
3. We are committed to the Respect Standard for Housing Management and will reduce the level of anti-social behaviour in our Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.
4. We will deliver intensive neighbourhood management in identified communities to develop involvement, increase respect, opportunity and cohesion and support resident involvement in decision making.



Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
<b>SF1.3</b>	To fully implement the Common Assessment Framework and a Thresholds and Intervention Protocol.	March 2008	By September 2007 all new referrals/connections to be completed via CAF	Jim Stewart	80 Managers plus 550+ practitioners trained in CAF. An additional 200+ staff reached via briefing. Process Ongoing	GREEN
<b>SF2: WE WILL PROVIDE EARLY ACCESS TO FAMILY SERVICES IN ROTHERHAM TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES</b>						
<b>SF2.1</b>	To put in place a multi-agency locality team within each of the area assembly to address the individual service and preventative support needs of the children, young people and their families within each community	Sept 2007  Nov 2007  April 2008	Consultation on integrated service delivery model completed - <b>MET</b>  Locality Managers recruited.  Locality Teams in place	Simon Perry	Integrated services delivery model drafted about to be sent to consultation <b>October 2007</b> Integrated services delivery model consultation has been undertaken.	GREEN
<b>SF2.2</b>	To ensure that services and information for children and families are co-ordinated and accessible by all.	2009    2009	The number of full CIS delivery venues within the community.  2006/07 = 2 - <b>MET</b> 2007/08 = 12 - <b>ON TARGET</b> 2008/09 = 20  The number of Children's Centres designated. 2006/07 = 10 <b>EXCEEDED</b> 2007/08 = 18 2008/09 = 20	Mary Smith    Mary Smith	2006/07 Outturn all targets met or exceeded;- 2 CIS delivery venues <b>October 2007</b> 2007/8 Q2 Installation and training has taken place at 1 additional centre. Installation and training at a further 5 centres will be completed in Q3 and the final 4 in Q4.  12 Children's centres designated <b>October 2007</b> 2007/8 Q2 All of the centres have been approved by DCSF. Timescales for the builds have slipped due to the floods. Approval has been granted to extend capital funding spend to June 08 for all centres apart from Brampton which will be completed in Quarter 4.	GREEN

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
		2010	<p>% of schools making available the Extended Services Core Offer.</p> <p>2006/07 = 20% <b>EXCEEDED</b>  2007/08 = 27%  2008/09 = 50%</p> <p>100% by 2010</p>	Chris Pope	<p>Services will be in place by the end of Quarter 4 but will be delivered at alternative venues until the centres are completed. This will enable us to gain Children's Centres designation as required by the end of March.</p> <p><b>42% of schools offering the Extended Services core offer.</b> Recent TDA audit report 11 Sep 07 notes that Rotherham has exceeded its predicted trajectory for 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rotherham has already achieved the 2008 government target for secondary schools, and is well on the way towards achieving the 2008 target for primary schools</li> <li>- Rotherham has nominated enough schools to meet the 2008 government target</li> </ul> <p>On TDA rating scale, 19 of remaining schools have a distance travelled of 8 or 9 indicating that they are in a strong position to achieve the full core offer</p>	
<b>SF2.3</b>	To identify and ensure appropriate assessment, intervention and support is offered to young people at high risk of alcohol and drug misuse	2010	<p>% of young offenders screened for substance misuse; 100% of those who need it getting an assessment within 5 working days by March 2008.</p> <p>100% of youth offenders who need them getting the early intervention and treatment services they require within</p>	Paul Theaker	<p><b>Oct 2007</b> Current position = 99.35%</p> <p><b>Oct 2007</b> Current position = 100%</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>GREEN</p>

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
			<p>10 working days by March 2008.</p> <p>Numbers of young people entering, receiving and completing treatment to increase by 50% by 2008 from 2003/04 baseline target of 126 in 2007/08.</p> <p>100% of psychosocial interventions within 3 week NTA limit in 2007/08.</p>		<p><b>Oct 2007</b> Current position = 169</p> <p><b>Oct 2007</b> Current position = average of 3 days.</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>GREEN</p>
<b>SF2.4</b>	Reduce the number of young people who offend and re-offend.	March 2008	Reduce by 5% the number of young offenders re-offending.	Simon Perry	We have continued our year-on-year decrease [measured at the new youth justice board threshold of 12 months], recidivism within all aspects of the system has systematically dropped from 44% in 2002/03 to 25.4% in 2005/06.	GREEN
<b>SF2.5</b>	Continue the implementation of the Youth Crime & Disorder Strategy.	2010	Reduction in first time entrants to the criminal justice system.	Simon Perry	We have achieved a 6.7% decrease in "number of first time entrants to the youth justice system". Comparing impressively by regional, "family group" and national which had average increases of 0.4%, 26.2% and 7% respectively.	GREEN

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
<b>A NEW APPROACH TO THE MOST CHALLENGING FAMILIES</b>						
<b>CF1: WE WILL SUPPORT FAMILIES AND IMPROVE PARENTING PROVISION TO TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</b>						
<b>CF1.1</b>	Roll-out and deliver the nationally recognised 'Triple P' Parenting Programme across Rotherham	2010	<p><b>Nov 2007</b> – Parenting Officer trained to deliver the programme.</p> <p><b>Jan 2008</b> - Develop programme for Rotherham.</p> <p><b>Mar 2008</b> – Commence programme delivery</p>	Helen Nixon	Action commenced Oct 2007	GREEN
<b>CF2: WE WILL MAKE AVAILABLE EFFECTIVE PARENTING PROGRAMMES ACROSS ROTHERHAM AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, REQUIRE FAMILIES TO TAKE PART</b>						
<b>CF2.1</b>	All frontline locality staff to be trained in effective parenting work.	June 2008	<p>Training Programme to be developed - Dec 2007</p> <p>Training delivered - Jan to June 08</p>	Ged McNulty	<p>Work in Progress</p> <p><b>October 2007</b> BLF BID UNSUCCESSFUL- alternative plans need to be put in place.</p> <p>Parenting Strategy being presented to C&amp;YPS Strategic Partnership on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct for consultation and further development.</p> <p>Further update required on way forward post 23/10/07</p>	GREEN
<b>IMPROVING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOLS</b>						
<b>S1: WE WILL WORK TO IMPROVE BEHAVIOUR AND REDUCE BULLYING AND HARASSMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BY PROVIDING EFFECTIVE TRAINING FOR STAFF, IMPLEMENTING ROBUST PROTOCOLS AND THROUGH THE SHARING OF BEST PRACTICE</b>						
<b>S1.1</b>	Improve pupil behaviour via school partnership working and providing effective training for school's staff	2010	Sharing of best practise and support via school's Behaviour & Attendance Network	Katy Edmondson [Service Leader – Inclusion]	<p>Work in Progress</p> <p><b>October 2007</b> Training is available to all secondary schools. The uptake is dependant on allocation of</p>	GREEN

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
			Ensure behaviour improvement training is available across all secondary schools (SEB/SEAL)		resources within their establishments.  Behaviour and Attendance Network meetings continue to be productive.	
<b>S1.2</b>	Reducing bullying & harassment of children and young people by implementing robust protocols, systems and through sharing best practise	Sept 2007  Dec 2007  2010	Implementation of the Sentinal database in 50% of schools  Introduction of a School Standard in anti-bullying work.  Reduction in % of pupils stating they have been bullied in last 12 months (Lifestyle Survey)	Cath Ratcliffe [Chief Education Welfare Officer - CYPS]	<b>October 2007</b> Sentinel now implemented in 43 schools. Further re launch with schools to date no additional take up. AB Officer to investigate reporting via SIMS system  Standard has now been linked to Healthy Schools National and local Standard. 10 schools to achieve standard by 12/07.  Going live Sept 07, 10 schools to achieve standard by 12/07 Reduction in Y7 but increase in Y10. 2006 – Y7 58.20% Y10 50/07% 2007 – Y7 56.12% Y1054.17%	GREEN
<b>S2: WE WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CASES REFERRED TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY NON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PANEL, BY INTRODUCING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PANELS AND GREATER FOCUS ON EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION</b>						
<b>S2.1</b>	Improve school attendance levels in all year groups	2010	% absence in Secondary Schools (BVPI 45) 2006/07 – 8.00% 2007/08 – 7.89%  % absence in Primary Schools (BVPI 46) 2006/07 – 5.49% 2007/08 – 5.29%	Cath Ratcliffe [Chief Education Welfare Officer – CYPS]	<b>October 2007</b> Improving on 05/06 outturn. 2006/07 Out-turn  % absence in Secondary Schools in 2005/06 was 8.77% 06/07 is 8.4% (unvalidated)  % absence in Primary Schools in 2005/06 was 5.78% 06/07 is 5.2% (Unvalidated)	AMBER

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
<b>S2.2</b>	Reduce the number of cases to the LA Non school attendance panel by the introduction of school attendance panels – early intervention	August 07	Schools attendance panels in place in  20% of Secondary 10% of Primary schools	Cath Ratcliffe [Chief Education Welfare Officer – CYPS]	Targets achieved – work progressing. <b>October 2007</b> Slight increase due to the number of schools requesting FPN's for holidays in term time	GREEN
<b>S3: WE WILL CARRY OUT REGULAR TRUANCY PATROLS AND MAKE FULL USE OF FIXED PENALTY NOTICES FOR NON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</b>						
<b>S3.1</b>	To carryout daily Truancy Patrols	2010	50 truancy patrols a year from 2006	Cath Ratcliffe [Chief Education Welfare Officer – CYPS]	<b>October 2007</b> Sept 2005 - Aug 2006 = 106 Sept 2006 - Oct 2007 = 86	GREEN
<b>S3.2</b>	Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for non school attendance. (Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003)	2010	50 per annum	Cath Ratcliffe [Chief Education Welfare Officer – CYPS]	Achieved <b>October 2007</b> 54 notices issued Between April and October 2007	GREEN
<b>ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</b>						
<b>AC&amp;YP1: WE WILL INCREASE ENGAGEMENT IN POSITIVE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</b>						
<b>AC&amp;YP1.1</b>	Increase engagement in Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)	Ongoing	Number of young people accessing positive activities. 2006/07 – 80 2007/08 - 100 2007/08 – 200 (Revised in view of current performance)	Collette Bailey [Widening Participation Manager]	At outturn 2006/07 98 young people accessed PAYP activities <b>October 2007</b> Between July and September 2007, 174 young people were engaged in formal positive activities. Joint partnership project in Rawmarsh/Pargate area over same period contributed to a 39% decrease of nuisance youth complaints compared to the same period 2006 (CIU Data)	GREEN



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<b>AC&amp;YP1.2</b>	Ensure that Integrated CYPS includes the means to plan and provide for the provision of activities in each Locality.	October 2007	Connexions PA's in each locality area.  Borough wide short term response team in place.	Simon Perry	Model for delivery agreed subject to consultation	GREEN
<b>AC&amp;YP1.3</b>	Map existing positive activity provision in Rotherham.  Cross reference provision against National Standards for positive activities  Develop a 'planned ambition statement' to meet requirements of Section 507b of Education Act 1996	Dec 2007  Mar 2008  Mar 2008	Positive Activities mapped  Identify gaps in provision  Produce planned ambition statement which will determine what is 'sufficient'	George Simpson Alison Lilburn	Positive Activities T & F Groups established. Data collection commenced of positive activities in Rotherham. Development of website commenced.	GREEN
<b>AC&amp;YP1.4</b>	Development of a Youth Offer for young people in Rotherham. (aged 13-19)	March 2007          March 2008	Phase 1 must evidence 1. Progress on ICT solutions 2. Details of how young people can get involved 3. Evidence of youth focussed communications   Phase 2 must evidence 1. Provided comprehensive, accurate and accessible info 2. Planned ambition statement in place 3. Publicity used to drive and report on how young people's	George Simpson Alison Lilburn	Phase 1 requirements met: 1. Working with CIS to deliver joint website. Software purchased 2. Progress made in mapping local providers of positive activities 3. 28 youth communication workshops carried out to identify young people's views re headings for 'youth zone' section and design website	GREEN

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
			views are being taken into account 4. Info on how young people can challenge the local authority 5. Evidence of YP involvement in design and management 6. Info available to parents and carers			
<b>AC&amp;YP2: WE WILL ENSURE THE FULL DELIVERY OF A ROTHERHAM PLAY STRATEGY</b>						
<b>AC&amp;YP2.1</b>	To improve and extend opportunities to play for all children and young people in Rotherham Borough	2010 on-going	1. To raise awareness of the value and significance of play for children and young people and to promote better understanding of the role of play in their personal development. 2. To provide a targeted range of challenging and exciting outdoor play spaces for children and young people. 3. To support and maintain a strong and effective play partnership representing all sectors of the community which will co-ordinate and enable good quality, sustainable play. 4. To recognise and value the range of workers who deliver play opportunities across all sectors, to share good practice and to increase the number of qualified playworkers in Rotherham. 5. To involve children and young people in the planning,	Nick Barnes	Commencing September 2007 Commenced  Commencing September 2007 Commenced  Ongoing  Ongoing  Commencing September 2007 Commenced	GREEN

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
			design, delivery and feedback on the management of future play facilities. 6. To identify and remove barriers preventing children and young people from accessing play opportunities.			
<b>STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES</b>						
<b>SC1: WE WILL LISTEN TO OUR COMMUNITIES AND PUT THEIR PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO TO TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND PROMOTE POSITIVE CITIZENSHIP</b>						
<b>SC1.1</b>	The chairs of the Safer Rotherham Partnership to engage with the communities across the borough to report progress on tackling anti-social behaviour and to hear first hand experiences of residents.	March 2010	Minimum of four engagements a year.	Community Involvement Manager / Chief Inspector Marissa Cooper	<b>October 2007</b> Work in progress to develop a more structured process in respect of senior council/police managers.	NEW
	To carry out regular, ongoing 'street briefing' sessions within the borough.	March 2010	Number of 'street briefings' taking place within the Area Assemblies/Safer Neighbourhood Team areas.	SNT Inspectors Area Partnership Managers	Local street meetings taking place within each of the seven SNT/Area Assemblies involving SNA Insps, APM's and elected representatives.	GREEN
<b>SC1.2</b>	1. We will revise and implement a modern Community Development Strategy, Area Plans and Neighbourhood Charters in each of the seven Area Assemblies.	April 2008		Community Involvement Manager	1. Meeting to take place between representatives of RMBC Neighbourhood Standards, Neighbourhood Involvement, Police and Community Safety to develop and implement community influence cycle. <b>October 2007</b>	GREEN
					The NAG Community Influence Cycle process has 'slipped' by several weeks.	AMBER

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
	<p>2. Through the Area Assemblies provide a vehicle for local residents to raise a 'Community Call for Action' enabling local councillors to refer local issues to Council Executives and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.</p> <p>3. Implement the Area Assembly Performance Management Framework in order to make the public's views on service quality the core test of local performance.</p>	April 2008			<p>Activity taking place to establish the most effective ways of informing communities of the work carried out towards meeting previously identified priorities. Each NAG is establishing a consultation process to inform if current priorities are still relevant and what are new priorities – supported by CIU data.</p> <p>2. Home Office policy work on CCA and OSC postponed until the findings of the current on-going review of policing is known, as this is covering local accountability and local involvement in policing. Review due for completion end of 2007 and time constraints means that the introduction of CCA will not know take place in April 2008.</p>	
<b>SC1.3</b>	Reduce by 5% the number of residents reporting by survey who perceive people not treating one another with respect and consideration as a very or fairly big problem. (Respect Mandatory Indicator)	March 2010	Baseline 56% - Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07	Steve Parry Community Safety Unit	Priority 2: SRP Priorities/Performance Indicators  ANNUAL INDICATOR	<b>AMBER</b>
<b>SC1.4</b>	To promote positive images of young people in their communities	March 2010	Reduce by 5% the number of residents reporting by survey who perceive parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children as a very or fairly big	Tom Kelly	Action has been identified as a key priority in the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan.  <b>Oct 2007</b>	<b>AMBER</b>

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
			<p>problem.(Respect Mandatory Indicator)</p> <p>Baseline 70% - Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07</p> <p>5% reduction by March 2008</p>		<p>Promoting positive images of young people is a priority within the Children and Young People's Plan. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensuring a positive public perception of young people. Weekly media digest instituted to measure % of positive images of children in local and national media. July September = 77% positive; 18% negative; 5% balanced.</li> <li>- promoting the use of the Praise Pod. This has been introduced as a pilot into the Rawmarsh cluster of schools this term (9 schools, 1 Children's Centre). National press coverage of Praise Pod during September.</li> <li>- Involving young people in developing community cohesion. This has been introduced as a pilot into the Rawmarsh cluster of schools this term (9 schools, 1 Children's Centre). National press coverage of Praise Pod during September.</li> <li>- publicising positive contributions made by young people. This has been introduced as a pilot into the Rawmarsh cluster of schools this term (9 schools, 1 Children's Centre). National press coverage of Praise Pod during September.</li> <li>- taking advantage of local and national award ceremonies</li> <li>- Increasing accredited</li> </ul>	

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
					outcomes/evaluation. This has been introduced as a pilot into the Rawmarsh cluster of schools this term (9 schools, 1 Children's Centre). National press coverage of Praise Pod during September.	
<b>SC1.5</b>	Deliver positive and timely information to the community in respect of activity to prevent/reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.	October 2007	<p>Arrange regular meetings with local media to publicise strategies and activity for tackling anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Produce regular publicity material to inform communities and promote robust reputation for tackling anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Publicise ASBO information in line with Council policies.</p>	Helen Nixon Jayne Hurley	<p>Respect Priority Group holding first meeting on 17/08/07. Media and communication strategy to be developed and implemented to pro-actively address the issue of mandatory, perception based performance indicators for ASB.</p> <p><b>Oct 2007</b> £25K ASB Pump Priming money allocated between SYP/2010/RMBC to deliver positive communication strategy re ASB Meeting taking place 26/10/07 to formulate strategy and spending plan.</p>	GREEN
<b>SC1.6</b>	Reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour arising from noise, litter, fly-tipping, graffiti, alcohol and drug related crime in order to improve the physical appearance of our communities by:				<b>New Action - October 2007</b>	NEW
	Reduce the number of incidents of fly-tipping.	March 2009 (Baseline 04/05)	During reporting period to record 839 fewer incidents on the 'Fly Capture' database	Andy Shaw		NEW

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
	Reduce the number of incidents of graffiti.	March 2009 (Baseline 04/05)	During the reporting period reduce by 40% the number of incidents of graffiti reported to Streetpride.	Andy Shaw		NEW
	Introduce a 7 day response time for all reports of litter to the Streetpride golden number.	December 2008	Achieve 85% of report dealt with within the 7 day response time during 2007/2008.	Andy Shaw		NEW
	Undertake major community clean-ups in partnership with Area Assemblies.	December 2008	25 operations to be undertaken each year.	Andy Shaw		NEW
	Facilitate 'learning from customers' relating to Streetpride issues.	December 2008	3 forums each year	Andy Shaw		NEW
	Provide support to PCSO's in the targeted removal of unlicensed and potential nuisance vehicles from the network by undertaking joint 'sting' operations.	December 2008	50 operations to be carried out each year.	Andy Shaw		NEW
	Removal of abandoned/DVLA vehicles.	December 2008	98% of vehicles removed within 24 hours of inspection.	Andy Shaw		NEW
<b>SC1.7</b>	We will work with local communities to promote and develop Good Neighbourhood Agreements as a means to empowering residents to set local acceptable standards and positive citizenship.	2010	<b>Oct 2007</b> Benchmark with other Social Landlords <b>Nov/Dec 2007</b> Review and evaluate the existing Good Neighbour Agreement  Raise Neighbourhood Action Group partners awareness of	Andrew Leigh	New Action - October 2007	NEW

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
			<p>Good Neighbour Agreements Develop a strategy for targeted implementation</p> <p>Commence community consultation on targeted estates</p>			
<b>SC2: WE WILL ENGAGE WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND HARD TO REACH AND VULNERABLE GROUPS IN DEVELOPING PLANS TO REDUCE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</b>						
<b>SC2.1</b>	Reduce the number of vulnerable people in the community of being victims or offenders of ASB.	March 2008	<p>Identify a project manager Identify agencies who work with vulnerable people. Identify programmes/work already In place. Identify any gaps Develop work to address gaps identified Identified agencies are made aware of methods of reducing the risk.</p>	Andrew Leigh	<p><u>Update Dec 2006</u> 2010 customer survey 'getting to know you' helping by knowing who our customers are and how we can help to meet their needs – 25% of customers have responded currently updating our database</p> <p>Action Manager identified</p> <p>2010 – currently developing a supporting people bid for tenancy support staff.</p>	GREEN
<b>SC2.2</b>	Development of a strategy to give voice and influence to children and young people	October 2007	<p>Strategy paper completed</p> <p>Development of Voice and Influence/Young People Friendly Standards</p>	George Simpson	<p>Giving children and young people real voice and influence strategy paper adopted by CMT Jan 2006</p> <p>Standards currently in final draft. They will be piloted electronically via SNAP with a paper based backup in Aug 2007</p>	GREEN



Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
					<b>October 2007</b> Paper version currently being piloted with the Youth Clinics. Plans in place to 'roll out' jointly with the National Youth Agency in the Wath/Brampton area. Other areas to follow dependent upon success.	
<b>SC3: WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE RESPECT STANDARD FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND WILL REDUCE THE LEVEL OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREAS</b>						
<b>SC3.1</b>	Establish common standards and common definition for ASB incidents	March 2008	ASB standards in place within Neighbourhoods by March 2006 Ensure ASB standards are incorporated in the developing Neighbourhood Charters. Identify resources to work with partner agencies to develop common standards and definitions.	Steve Parry Community Safety Unit	Work currently ongoing taking into account the Home Office instructions to Police Forces in England & Wales on 'The National Standard For Incident Recording (NSIR)' and 'The National Incident Category List (NICL)' Objective is to apply these Police mandatory counting rules to all recording systems across RMBC and 2010.	GREEN
<b>SC3.2</b>	Reduce the level of anti-social behaviour in target Neighbourhood Renewal Area's to within 40% of the borough average.	March 2010	Baseline – 68.40% Milestone – 51.4% by March 2008.	Lesley Cooper	August 2007 performance standing at 63.7% against March 2008 milestone target.	GREEN
<b>SC3.3</b>	Develop additional opportunities to work alongside Registered Social Landlords.	March 2008	Carry out scoping exercise with RSL's across the borough. Review the attendance of RSL's at SRP. Review tenancy agreements with RSL's with a view to working with Government Office to determine a common tenancy agreement.	Sandra Tolley	<b>October 2007</b> Expansion of RSL Forum required to include tenancy managers. Monitoring of mgt service/contribution to the Respect Agenda to occur at same forum as a standing agenda item. Report on progress to Strategic Housing Partnership as a sustainability	GREEN

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
					indicator for performance management purposes.	
<b>SC4: WE WILL DELIVER INTENSIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT IN IDENTIFIED COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP INVOLVEMENT, INCREASE RESPECT, OPPORTUNITY AND COHESION AND SUPPORT RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING.</b>						
<b>SC4.1</b>	Implement and deliver an Intensive Neighbourhood Management pilot approach in the Chesterhill Avenue area of the Wentworth South Area Assembly. (circa 500 households)	Sept 2008	<b>Jan 2008:</b> Develop local governance arrangements including partnership board with resident representatives.  Identify interventions to stabilise current issues focussed around crime, housing and community confidence.  Develop communication strategy.  Establish baselines and produce full neighbourhood assessment through Quality of Life survey.  Agree framework and process for developing the Social Investment Plan.  Develop and agree a robust P.M.F.	Catherine Dale Neighbourhood Initiative Manager	New Action - Oct 2007	NEW

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
			<p><b>Apr 2008</b> Review and map current provision, identifying gaps.</p> <p>Encourage/co-ordinate engagement, involvement and commitment from partners.</p> <p>Identify priorities for intervention and key enabling factors.</p> <p>Collaborate with partners to identify interventions.</p> <p>Produce an Outcomes Framework.</p> <p>Formal adoption of the Neighbourhood Social Investment Plan by partners and residents.</p>	Catherine Dale		
			<p><b>Sept 2008</b> Interventions implemented and delivered.</p> <p>Impact monitored and measured.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Charter established.</p> <p>Interim outcomes/signs of change report produced.</p> <p>Support the roll out of the pilot to other high priority areas.</p>	Catherine Dale		
			<p><b>Nov 2008</b></p>	Catherine Dale		

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
			Quality of Life survey undertaken.			
<b>SC5: WE WILL STREAMLINE CURRENT PROCESSES WITH EACH AREA ASSEMBLY TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY OF PRACTICE, RECORDING, STORAGE AND USE OF INFORMATION AND FEEDBACK</b>						
<b>SC5.1</b>	Agree revised action point to contribute to the OF3 Objective	Oct 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish core change group</li> <li>Recommend amended action point to Director of Housing &amp; Neighbourhood Services</li> <li>Approved action point</li> </ul>	Lewis Coates	October 2007 New Action Within Plan	<b>NEW</b>
<b>SC5.2</b>	Establish scope of action and agree commitment of partners	Nov 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish officer working group to revise team plan – Nov 2007</li> <li>Ensure common understanding to ensure agreed terms of reference and projected outcome – Nov 2007</li> <li>Re-confirm action point delivery plan – Nov 2007</li> </ul>	Lewis Coates	October 2007 New Action Within Plan	<b>NEW</b>
<b>SC5.3</b>	Review current partner procedures regarding internal partnership and external customer processes	Nov 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners to submit briefing on their current recording &amp; referral process – Nov 2007</li> <li>Test and re-affirm RMBC internal procedures –</li> </ul>	Lesley Cooper	October 2007 New Action Within Plan	<b>NEW</b>

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
			Nov 2007 • Audit partner procedures – Nov 2007 • Examine use of NIR system – Nov 2007			
<b>SC5.4</b>	Research best practice of recording, referrals and community intelligence gathering	Dec 2007	Undertake desk top study of both internal partnership and other practice Refine as applicable NIM & NIR systems – Dec 2007	Lewis Coates	October 2007 New Action Within Plan	<b>NEW</b>
<b>SC5.5</b>	Agree principles of shared good practice across partners	Dec 2007	Circulate and adopt partner best practice – Dec 2007	Lewis Coates	October 2007 New Action Within Plan	<b>NEW</b>
<b>SC5.6</b>	Implement practice across partner teams	Jan 2008	Shared training events – Jan 2008 Communication strategy to aid referral practice – Jan 2008 Introduce mystery shopper testing	Lesley Cooper	October 2007 New Action Within Plan	<b>NEW</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY JUSTICE</b>						
<b>E&amp;CJ1: WE WILL USE THE FULL RANGE OF TOOLS AND POWERS AVAILABLE FOR TACKLING AND REDUCING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN CARRYING OUT TARGETED OPERATIONS IN IDENTIFIED PRIORITY AREAS</b>						
<b>E&amp;CJ1.1</b>	Ensure all remedies are utilised to tackle anti-social behaviour.	October 2007	Review and evaluate measures currently in use. Identify why other means have not been used. Utilise wider use of existing powers. Bench-mark other authorities and ALMO's Review resources to ensure	Helen Nixon Jayne Hurley		



Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>users.</li> <li>Increase the number of vehicles seized under the Police Reform Act 2002.</li> <li>Reduce by 10% the number of reports of off-road motor vehicle nuisance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Access &amp; Barrier Control Schemes 2007/08</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification/implementation of relevant schemes and maintenance of existing schemes</li> </ul>	Paul Spivey		
<b>E&amp;CJ2: WE WILL KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF OUR TARGETED ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND IN APPROPRIATE CASES POSITIVELY PUBLICISE THE IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUAL PERSISTENT OFFENDERS</b>						
<b>E&amp;CJ2.1</b>	To increase by 10% the number of residents reporting by survey who feel very or fairly well informed about what the council is doing to tackle anti-social behaviour. (Respect Mandatory Indicator)	March 2010	Baseline 19% - Local Government User Satisfaction Survey 2006/07	Steve Parry Jayne Hurley	SRP Priority 2.4  ANNUAL INDICATOR	AMBER
<b>E&amp;CJ3: WE WILL INCREASE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND CONFIDENCE WITH THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</b>						
<b>E&amp;CJ3.1</b>	Improve Access to services for	October 2008	Provision of a single non	Janet Greenwood	7 SNT numbers introduced for	AMBER

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
	customers reporting ASB		emergency number for the reporting of ASB in Rotherham	Steve Parry	<p>each SNT. Currently working on a voicemail system. Intention for all SNT calls to be directed to the SNU. This time scale will be depend on staff recruitment by SYP. Business Process Re-engineering has taken place for all ASB categories. A mapping process has taken place to allow calls intended for council services can be redirected by the SNU. A budget for implementation will need to be found for this financial year.</p> <p><u>August 2007</u> – Implications in respect of the progression of the National ‘101’ project and continuation into wave 2 of the project requires a re-think on ASB call handling by RMBC and partners across the borough. There will be no national decision on the progression of ‘101’ until autumn of this year but it looks likely that HO funding to move into wave 2 will not be made available. Meeting taking place on 20.08.07 to consider the way forward for RMBC in light of the above.</p> <p><u>October 2007</u> – Ongoing The issue of a SNEN is the subject of RisGen monitoring.</p>	
<b>E&amp;CJ3.2</b>	Ensure that anti-social behaviour procedures place the	March 2008	Personal visits to complainants	Helen Nixon	<b>October 2007</b> - Existing procedures have been	GREEN



Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
	complainant/witness at the forefront of all investigations,		Evidence gathering best practice Role of Neighbourhood Champions Appropriate training for Neighbourhood Champions		reviewed with customer involvement.  Training with/of 2010 staff to commence Nov 2007	
<b>COMPLETED ACTIONS</b>						
<b>CF1.1</b>	To recruit and employ a parenting worker within the ASBU using Respect Task Force funding	April 2007	To contribute to a reduction in the incidences of anti social behaviour across the borough, by offering support to children, young people, parents and families in need in the form of one to one intervention or parenting group work	Helen Nixon Ged McNulty	Approx £30000 external funding and matched funding from the ASBU in terms of equipment and supervision  Parenting Officer recruited April 2007  <b>ACTION COMPLETE</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
<b>CF2.2</b>	To link the ASBU with Educational Psychology Services for the purposes of supporting the ASB team and the parenting worker	March 2007	To contribute to a reduction in the incidences of anti social behaviour by offering expertise in behaviour management techniques to the parenting worker and the ASBU. In addition, to enhance the understanding of the ASBU in terms of parenting issues and support	Helen Nixon Adela Bingham Simon Priest	Approx £20000 external funding. Supervision offered from within EPS.  <b>ACTION COMPLETE</b>	<b>GREEN</b>
<b>SC4.3</b>	Develop and implement an action plan to drive activity towards meeting the requirements of the Respect Housing Standard.	October 2007	Performance Improvement Plan to be in place by January 2007.  May 2007 – Formal signing and launch of the Respect Standard for Housing	Paul Webb	March 2007 - Anti-Social Behaviour Performance Plan in place with identified action managers.  <b>ACTION COMPLETE</b>	<b>GREEN</b>

Key Commitment	Actions	Completion Date	Targets	Action Manager	Update	Status
			Management.			
<b>SF1.2</b>	To develop a funding bid to the Big Lottery Fund for the co-ordination of parenting support programmes and services across the borough.	Completion of bid - May 2007  Funding approval decision - August 2007	To secure approx £500,000 for the purpose of coordinating parenting support programmes and services across the borough.	Ged McNulty	Bid submitted.  Bid unsuccessful – notified 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2007.  <b>ACTION COMPLETE</b>	N/A
<b>SC3.4</b>	Develop and implement a Private Landlord Accreditation Scheme to encourage high standards of tenancy management.	Dec 2007	Develop an action plan (May 06) Set policies and procedures (Sept 07) Prepare cabinet report(Sept 07) Develop marketing protocol (Sept 07) Prepare business plan (Sept 07) Recruit member of staff(Dec 07) Scheme operational (Dec 07) Launch Gold Plus Scheme in partnership with Action Housing – (July 07)	Claire Boldy (Private rented sector manager)	<b>Update June 2007</b> Bronze and Silver schemes launched Nov 06 Gold scheme launched in April 2007 Work commencing on launching gold plus scheme in partnership with action housing Policy and procedures to be completed by Sept 07 Administrative support 18 hrs Manager recruited Feb 07 37hrs Scheme operational April 07  <b>SCHEME COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.</b>  <b>ACTION COMPLETE</b>	GREEN

Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) 2007-08 Priorities

Link to other targets / agreements / surveys / strategies		Priorities and targets	Accountable Manager	What is good performance?	Current Performance	Baseline	Aug-07	This year's target				
BY	BCS								NRS	LAA	QOL	SAFE
<b>Priority 1: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>												
		LAA	SAFE	SRP1.1	Increase sanction detections as a % of recorded crimes in domestic violence cases by 27.5% by 31st March 2009 (target 35%)	Sandra McNeill, Rotherham MBC	Higher is Better	★	7.50%	56%	42.50%	
		LAA	SAFE	SRP1.1	Reduce 5% points of repeat incidents of domestic violence from 34.1% to 29.1% by 31st March 2009	Sandra McNeill, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	★	34.10%	28%	31.60%	
					Number of women supported by IDVA Service	Sandra McNeill, Rotherham MBC	Higher is Better		NEW	45	NEW	
					% of users satisfied with the IDVA service	Sandra McNeill, Rotherham MBC	Higher is Better		NEW	N/A	NEW	
BV25					% of actions compliant with the national domestic violence checklist	Sandra McNeill, Rotherham MBC	Higher is Better	★	NEW	73.0%	81.80%	
<b>Priority 2: RESPECT</b>												
		LAA	QOL	SAFE	SRP2.1	Reduce by 5%, the number of residents reporting by survey that various forms of anti-social behaviour are either a very big problem or a fairly big problem in their neighbourhood (CSS6.1)	Steve Parry, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	NEW	48%	Annual	43%
					1a) Noisy neighbours or loud parties 1b) teenagers hanging around on the streets - (Nuisance Youths) 1c) rubbish and litter lying around 1d) people being drunk or rowdy in public spaces 1e) abandoned or burnt out cars 1f) vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles • Damage • Graffiti 1g) people using or dealing drugs							
			QOL		SRP2.2	Reduce by 5% the number of people who feel that in their local area parents are not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children	Steve Parry, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	NEW	70%	Annual	65.00%
			QOL		SRP2.3	Reduce by 5% the number of people who feel that people in their area do not treat one another with respect and consideration	Steve Parry, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	NEW	56%	Annual	51.00%
			QOL		SRP2.4	Improve by 10% people who feel very or fairly well informed about what the Council is doing to tackle anti-social behaviour	Helen Nixon, Rotherham MBC	Higher is Better	NEW	19.00%	Annual	29.00%
		LAA			SRP2.5	By March 2010 to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour in target NRS areas to within 40% of the borough average (Milestone 51.4% by 2008) (CSS6.9)	Lesley Cooper, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	★	68.40%	63.7%	51.40%
					SRP2.6	To reduce by 10% the number of reports of off-road motor vehicle nuisance (CSS6.5)	Insp. Richard Scholey, SY Police	Lower is Better	★	3260	887	2934
		LAA	SAFE		SRP2.7	To reduce by 5%, the number of residents who think nuisance motorcycles are a very big or fairly big problem in their locality (CSS6.6)	Paul Spivey, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	N/A	49%	49%	44%
		LAA	SAFE		SRP2.8	To reduce the number of deliberate fires in Rotherham by 6% by March 2008 (And by 10% by 2009) (CSS6.7)	Gordon Charlesworth, SY Fire Service	Lower is Better	★	2262	741	2127
					SRP2.9	To reduce by 5% by March 2009 the number of domestic noise incidents across the Borough	Mark Ford, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	★	1730	575	1687
					SRP2.10	To reassure the public by reducing the fear of crime in Rotherham, in particular the fear of crime in vulnerable people						
			QOL	SAFE	SRP2.11	To reduce the percentage of adults very concerned about being a victim of crime from 32% in 2006 to at least 27% by 2008 (CSS7.1)	Lesley Cooper, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	N/A	32%	N/A	27%
			SAFE		SRP2.12	To reduce the fear of crime disparity between disabled and non-disabled residents from 39% in 2004 to 20% by 2008 Consultation on Audit of Crime, Disorder and Drug Problem) (CSS7.2)	Lesley Cooper, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	N/A	29%	N/A	20%
			SAFE		SRP2.13	Reduce the percentage of people from a BME background who are 'very concerned' about being a victim of crime	Lesley Cooper, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
			SAFE		SRP2.14	Reduce the percentage of people with a long standing illness, disability or infirmity who are 'very concerned' about being a victim of crime	Lesley Cooper, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
					SRP2.15	To reduce the incidence and impact of anti-social behaviour						
BCS		LAA	SAFE		SRP2.16	To reduce criminal damage by 5% by March 2008 (CSS6.2)	Ch. Insp. Paul Varley, SY Police	Lower is Better	▲	5525	2468	5249
			SAFE		SRP2.17	Reduce the level of anti-social behaviour in target areas to within 55% of the borough average by March 2009	Lesley Cooper, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	NEW	NEW	NEW	NEW
<b>Priority 3: SAFETY IN THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY</b>												
		BCS	LAA	SAFE	SRP3.1	To reduce woundings by 5% by March 2008 (CSS4.1)	Ch. Insp. Marissa Cooper, SY Police	Lower is Better	▲	809	1416	769
		BCS			SRP3.2	Prevent increase in common assault from the level in 2003/2004 ie 1024 (CSS4.3)	Ch. Insp. Paul Varley, SY Police	Lower is Better	★	1024	268	1024
		LAA	SAFE		SRP3.3	To reduce acts of violence occurring in connection with licensed premises by 5% by March 2008 (CSS4.4)	Ch. Insp. Marissa Cooper, SY Police	Lower is Better	▲	372	162	353
<b>OVERALL CRIME</b>												
		BCS		SAFE	OC1.1	To achieve an overall reduction of crime in Rotherham of 17.5% by March 2008 and an additional 5.3% by March 2009	Matt Jukes, SY Police	Lower is Better	▲	15084	6326	12444
					OC1.2	To reduce robbery of personal property by 5% by March 2008 (CSS4.2)	DCI Terry Mann, SY Police	Lower is Better	★	120	47	114
		BCS			OC1.3	To reduce violent crime per 1,000 population in the local authority area	Tim Hawkins, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	★	22%	8.90	22.10
		BCS			OC1.4	To reduce Theft from Person by 5% by March 2008 (CSS4.6)	DCI Terry Mann, SY Police	Lower is Better	▲	285	135	271
					OC1.5	To reduce the rate of domestic burglary, vehicle crime and business crime in the Borough						
		BCS	LAA	SAFE	OC1.6	To reduce domestic burglary by 35% by March 2008 (CSS5.1)	DCI Terry Mann, SY Police	Lower is Better	★	2046	520	1300
BV26					OC1.7	Domestic Burglary per 100,000 households	Tim Hawkins, RMBC	Lower is Better	★	13.2	4.7	13.1
		NRS	LAA		OC1.8	By March 2010 reduce the level of domestic burglary per 1000 households within all NRS neighbourhoods to within 30% of borough average by March 2008 to be reduced to 34% (CSS5.3)	DCI Terry Mann, SY Police	Lower is Better	★	40%	39.10%	34%
		BCS	LAA	SAFE	OC1.9	To reduce theft or unauthorised taking of vehicles by 35% by March 2008 (CSS5.4)	DCI Terry Mann, SY Police	Lower is Better	★	1933	458	1458
		BCS			OC1.10	To reduce theft from a vehicle by 35% by March 2008 (CSS5.5)	DCI Terry Mann, SY Police	Lower is Better	▲	2883	1096	1874
		BCS			OC1.11	To reduce vehicle interference by 5% by March 2008 (CSS5.6)	DCI Terry Mann, SY Police	Lower is Better	▲	250	186	237
		NRS			OC1.12	By March 2010 reduce the level of vehicle crime per 1000 population within target NRS neighbourhoods to within 20% of Borough average (Milestone to reduce to 24% by 2008) (CSS5.7)	DCI Terry Mann, SY Police	Lower is Better	★	30%	5.1%	24%
BV126					OC1.13	To reduce the number of robberies per 1,000 population in the local authority area	Tim Hawkins, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	★	0.60%	0.20	0.50
					OC1.14	To reduce the number of vehicle crimes per 1,000 in the local authority area	Tim Hawkins, Rotherham MBC	Lower is Better	★	15.70%	6.10	15.50
			SAFE		OC1.15	Reduce the rate of business burglaries within the Borough by 5%	DCI Terry Mann, SY Police	Lower is Better	NEW	627	N/A	564
					OC1.16	Equalities and Diversity						
		BV174			OC1.17	The number of racial incidents reported directly to MAARI and through its partners and subsequently recorded per 100,000 population (CSS3.1)	Tim Hawkins RMBC, Almas Abassi/P Khan, MAARI	Lower is Better	▲	73.36	58.8	70
					OC1.18	The percentage of racial incidents reported to MAARI and its partner agencies that resulted in further action.	Higher is Better	Higher is Better		100	NEW	100.0
					OC1.19	To prevent offending and re-offending						
					OC1.20	PPO's who commence community order or are released from custody subject to licence shall have an up-to-date assessment and sentence plan within 5 working days (CSS2.3)	Ruth Holmes, Probation Service	Higher is Better	★	80%	100%	100%
					OC1.21	To increase the confidence of victims and vulnerable people to report incidents and to reduce levels of victimisation amongst repeat victims and witnesses						
					OC1.22	To achieve a take up rate of the pre-trial visit offer from the Witness Service through pro-active contact of 60% (CSS3.4)	VSR Jack Clarkson, Victim Support	Higher is Better	★	60%	62.7%	60%
<b>DRUGS &amp; YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE</b>												
					DAT1.1	To reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs in Rotherham						
					DAT1.2	Increase the participation of problem drug misusers in drug treatment programmes to 1750 by 2007/8 (CSS1.1)	Anne Charlesworth, Rotherham PCT	Higher is Better	★	1152	June 1421	1750
					DAT1.3	Retain 85% of people in treatment for 12 weeks or more by 2007/08 (83% by 2006/07) (CSS1.2)	Anne Charlesworth, Rotherham PCT	Sustain is Best	★	81%	June 80%	85%
					DAT1.4	70% of waiting for specialist prescribing to be no longer than 3 weeks (CSS1.3)	Anne Charlesworth, Rotherham PCT	Higher is Better	★	80%	June 98%	83%
					DAT1.5	95% of adults who test positive and have a required assessment imposed to attend and remain at the required assessment (CSS1.4)	Anne Charlesworth, Rotherham PCT	Higher is Better	★	90%	April 91%	95%
					DAT1.6	95% of adults taken onto the caseload to engage in treatment (CSS1.5)	Anne Charlesworth, Rotherham PCT	Higher is Better	★	100%	April 100%	95%
		LAA	SAFE		DAT1.7	To increase the number of offenders dealt with for the supply of controlled drugs by 10% (CSS1.6)	DCI Terry Mann, SY Police	Higher is Better	★	99	71	104
					YOS1.1	Preventing the involvement of Young People in Crime as Victims and Offenders						
					YOS1.2	To reduce the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system by 5% by March 2008 (CSS8.1)	Simon Perry, Youth Offending Service	Lower is Better	★	595	257	580
					YOS1.3	To reduce the re-offending rates of young people within the criminal justice system by 5% (CSS8.2)	Simon Perry, Youth Offending Service	Lower is Better	N/A	43.30%	N/A	41.13%
					YOS1.4	To increase the number of children and young people who are victims of youth crime who are contacted and offered support and given the opportunity to take part in restorative justice if appropriate from 10 in 2005 to 30 in 2008. (CSS8.3)	Simon Perry, Youth Offending Service	Higher is Better	★	10	47	100
					YOS1.5	To conduct at least 100 interviews with young people per year and use the findings to inform policy in relation to crime and disorder. (CSS8.5)	Simon Perry, Youth Offending Service	Higher is Better		50	NA	100
		LAA			YOS1.6	% of pupils who state they have been bullied in the last 12 months	Cath Radcliffe, Chief Education Welfare Officer	Lower is Better	N/A	53%	N/A	51.50%

Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) 2007-08 Priorities

Link to other targets / agreements / surveys / strategies  
 BV BCS NRS LAA QOL CSS

Priorities and targets

Action Manager

REMOVED INDICATORS

CSA.4.5	To ensure that 75% of all licensed premises are members of licence watch by March 2008	Brij Chaggar, R'ham Chamber of Commerce
CSA.2	To maintain the level of repeat victimisation among domestic burglary victims below 8%	DCI Mick Mason, SY Police
CS2.1	Of the PPO's who breach their community sentence 75% of cases will have the information laid before a court within 10 working days	Ruth Holmes, Probation Service
CS2.2	Increase the percentage of community sentences and licenses successfully completed by PPO's by 10%	Ruth Holmes, Probation Service
CS3.5	To increase reporting levels of homophobic and transphobic incidents by 50% by March 2008	Detective Inspector Tim Staniforth
CS6.10	To enable all communities to widely recognise the quality of their neighbourhoods so that by April 2009 there is a 75% level of satisfaction with the cleanliness of their area. (Enviro-crime Strategy)	Andy Shaw, Rotherham MBC
CS7.7	Town Centre Action Plan Priorities??????????	
CS6.8	To reduce by 10% by April 2009 the percentage of people who view envirocrime to be a problems in their local area (Enviro-crime strategy 2006/09)	Mark Ford, Rotherham MBC
CS3.3	To increase by 20% the number warnings issued to off-road motor vehicle users by March 2008	Insp. Richard Scholey, SY Police
CS6.4	To increase by XXXX the number of off-road motor vehicles seized under the Police Reform Act 2002	Insp. Richard Scholey, SY Police
SRP2.4	Reduce the number of victims involved in hate crime by 5% categorised by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT)	Tim Hawkins, Rotherham MBC
	<a href="#">To action plan licensed premises identified as 'problematic' with a view to conditions being attached to their licence if they fail to conform</a>	
CS6.4	<del>To ensure that all young people involved in offending and at risk from drugs and substance misuse are assessed within 5 days</del>	Simon Perry, Youth Offending Service

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> February 2008</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Safer Neighbourhood Teams Review</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services</b>

### **5. Summary**

The seven Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been in operation since April 2006. A review of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams is to take place in March 2008. This report sets out the scope of the proposed review. The scope has been informed by discussion with South Yorkshire Police, a review of the strategic position, informal consultation at the NAG level and information about current practice.

This reports provides an initial scope for the SNT review. A formal stakeholder event will take place in February and the findings will be fed in to the review and to inform the actions .

### **6. Recommendations**

**That Members note the initiation of a development review of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, and the intention to gain further insight from stakeholders to develop the review further.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

Since the successful full introduction and operation of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in 2006 strong effective partnership working has delivered against the key local concerns of “crime and grime”. The success has impacted within communities and local surveys have recognised support for the new direction.

It has been recognised that improvements can be brought to enhance the approach and, indeed both local and national drivers require the SNT working to be reviewed and moved on to a new level. The review is timely given the new priority setting of the Strategic Intelligence review and in light of National Policing Reviews and Inspection Reports. The recent inspection by Her Majesties Inspector of Constabulary (HMIC) identified the need for greater community engagement and an auditable trail showing how local communities influenced the priorities of the safer neighbourhood teams. The Government white paper ‘Strong and Prosperous Communities’ emphasises the need for local community influence in deciding how services are delivered.

Local priorities and the levels of resource have changed over time. In May 2007 the SRP did a review of its structure and priorities. This identified Domestic Violence, Night-time Economy and Respect as the new priorities with short term tasking to ensure Vulnerable Localities and their inherent issues and the Fear of Crime and Customer Focus are integrated into the work of the NAGs and SNTs.

At this time a new national Police self-assessment procedure has been introduced and the use of this assessment system will give further insight to areas of development of our SNTs. The review must be advised by the findings and aligned to the National document.

The NAGS have started the process of setting new priorities as a result of community consultation and the review will look at strengthening the structures for future priority setting and integrating the consultation findings for Area Assembly plans.

Appendix 1 shows the initial scope of the review under the headings of Access, Influence, interventions and Answers. Much of the focus of the review is on a more robust community influence cycle to ensure local priorities are actioned and reassurance enhanced.

## **8. Finance**

There are no direct financial implications regarding the review other than maintaining the existing core budgets within the Housing and Neighbourhood’s department.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

There is a need to prioritise this review in addition to existing planned work. This raises issues of capacity and resource to steer the work from falling out of the review forward.

The review to bring anticipated development improvements will positively impact on forthcoming inspections.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

An improved Safer Neighbourhood Structure will help deliver Rotherham’s Community Safety Strategy 2005 – 08 and the RESPECT agenda. It will strengthen RMBC’s capacity to fulfil its statutory duty to prevent crime and disorder under Section 17 of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act.

**Contact Name:** Lesley Cooper, Community Safety Officer Ext 4561

**SNT Review, Scope of Review (Initial)**

The Safer Neighbourhood teams contain a core team with other agencies working alongside where relevant and necessary. This is as follows.

<b>Working Patterns - Core teams -</b>	Police officers PCSOs Rotherham Wardens
<b>Virtual Teams -</b>	2010 Rotherham Limited RMBC Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers RMBC Envirocrime Team, Trading Standards Licensing Parking attendants etc.

The following issues should be looked at as part of the review. The Headings of Access, Influence, Interventions and Answers follow the National Policing model and provided the structure for the development of the introduction and enhancement of the Rotherham SNT model..

**1. Access****1.1 Marketing**

- Investigate the improved branding of Safer Neighbourhood Teams
- Discuss the best ways to ensure communities are aware of their Safer Neighbourhood Teams through effective promotion, including timely publicity and feedback about positive work.
- Link to SRP Communication Strategy.
- Review the issue of Internal marketing, assess whether further training or away days may be required.
- Look at developing a web form to report directly into the SNTs

**1.2 Improve Accommodation Strategy for Safer Neighbourhood Teams**

- Look further at front enquiry desks and assess whether they have adequate opening times at SNT bases, and door answering policies for those SNTs who do not have bases.
- Develop a further understanding of how SNTs will link with new Customer Service Centres.
- Identify where there are areas for improvement e.g. Rawmarsh, Maltby and Dinnington. Scope for better co-location in future (2010/RMBC)
- Move the development of a Rotherham Town Centre "Blue Lamp" shop
- Establish consistent front office access for all SNTs

**1.3 Communications**

- Improve telephone accessibility ASB hotline, 101 linkage, the effectiveness of SNU
- Review how can Rotherham Wardens have increased use of Airwaves rather than mobile phones.
- Identify how communications can be improved with Parking Attendants.

## 2. Influence

### 2.1 *SNT Briefings and Tasking*

Further investigations should take to answer the following;

- Are the right people attending?
- Are the briefings at the right times and frequency?
- How are tasks recorded and monitored?
- What is the access to tasking system for partners?
- Introduce across all SNTs cross agency tasking?
- How are tasking 'requests' passed to virtual teams?

### 2.2 *Community Intelligence*

The following should be assessed and reviewed.

- How well do partners gather and submit information through National Intelligence Reports, the standard form for submission of intelligence items?
- How can the NIR process be made more easier to use?
- Revisit and enhance the Eyes and Ears Training for partner staff, to learn how best to submit NIR and to encourage recording.
- Develop the KIN system – maximising partner networks
- Look at a further review of CIU to bring efficient capture of local intelligence
- Assess how core SNT agencies gather and submit info/intelligence to partners (E.g. fly tipping to Streetpride/under-age sales to Licensing) This will be looked at as part of the Our Futures 3 action.
- How does information from SNT telephone lines get submitted to partners. (Our Futures 3)

**2.3 *Elected members*** have a community leadership role, being the 'eyes and ears' of the community. Their active participation and understanding of the SNT and NAG process should be strengthened

### 2.4 *Community Influence Cycle*

- The 6 monthly community influence cycle needs to be reassessed. How do we engage with communities through the Area Assembly processes and others.
- Can public access to engage at a NAG level be improved

**2.5 *Feedback Links*** - How do we ensure there are effective feedback links to communities as part of this cycle. This would be linked to marketing and the SRP Communications Strategy.

**2.6 *Engagement*** - Determine the core consultative framework for community consultation and influence across the borough

## 3. Interventions

### 3.1 *Contribution of Partners to Community Safety/SNT Working*

- Are all available partners engaged?
- Develop stronger working relationships with Children and Young People's services, probation and PCT etc.?
- Ensure agencies are making full use of resources/powers (E.G – Civil injunctions/Notice Seeking Possession/Parenting Support etc.)



- Clarity about SNTs taking on tasks that others could/should do
- Greater knowledge of role and activity of SNT partners
- Determine accreditation requirements of the SYP Chief Constable
- Further Problem Solving Training for partners.
- Review shift patterns of the SNT to maximise community access
- Establish clear abstraction policies for the SNT police family
- Audit the use of tools and powers across all partner agencies

**3.2 Rotherham Warden Review** - Undertake a Review of the Warden Service to maximise the impact on community safety within communities in doing so enhancing the role within the SNT

### **3.3 Volcom/3<sup>rd</sup> Sector**

- How do we make full use of groups who could assist or increase the level of their assistance
- Identify how Neighbourhood Watch works locally, and the level of support, funding and protocols etc.
- How do we scope potential Volcom involvement?

## **4. Answers**

### **4.1 JAGS/NAGS**

- Develop a clearer referral and tasking protocol for the NAG and JAG
- Introduce a review of NAGs to bring greater effectiveness and consistency of approach
- Discuss the best ways to ensure community involvement at the NAG level. Ideas would include a Safer estates type meeting in addition to NAGS or community members incorporated with open/closed sessions?

**4.2 Vulnerable/Priority Locations** - Establish a clear governance protocol for the linkages between priority action/management areas eg Chesterhill and the NAG to enable clear understanding of priority setting at a NAG level.

### **4.3 Performance Management**

- At present the SNT's are performance managed by SYP this will need to be re-examined with the introduction of APACS

### **4.4 Service Standards**

- Would give clarity of role for all
- Establish a consistency of standard across agencies
- Determine clarity of the development of the Neighbourhood Charters and Standards

### **4.5 Meetings Structures**

- SNT Internal and External – are they fit for purpose/timing/membership etc.
- Area Assemblies – do the right people attend?
- Assess the meetings attended by SNT Inspectors/Sergeants/PCs etc.

### **4.6 National Review Issues**

- SYP recently received feedback from the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) after a recent 'mini-inspection. Recommendation in this may well impact upon the proposed review.

<b>Neighbourhoods and Adult Services Key decisions between 1st February 2008 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008</b>					
Matter subject of key decision	Proposed date of key decision	Proposed consultees	STATUS	Lead Director	Documents to be considered by decision-maker and date expected to be available
<b>February 2008</b>					
Refreshed RESPECT Strategy Action Plan	4 <sup>th</sup> February	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report
	12 <sup>th</sup> March	The Cabinet			
Out of Hours Noise Service Review	18 <sup>th</sup> February	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report
Air Quality Strategy Update	18 <sup>th</sup> February	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report
Bereavement Services	13 <sup>th</sup> February	The Cabinet	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report
	5 <sup>th</sup> March	Full Council			
Delivery of Year Ahead Commitment No 55 – SRP Structures	18 <sup>th</sup> February	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report
Multi Agency Neighbourhood Charters	21 <sup>st</sup> February	Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report

Lettings Policy	27 <sup>th</sup> February	Cabinet	On Target	Kirsty Everson	Report and Policy
Draft Housing Strategy 2008 – 2011	14 <sup>th</sup> February	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	On Target	Kim Curry	Report
<b>March 2008</b>					
Multi Agency Neighbourhood Charters	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report and Charters
Option Appraisal for ALMO Exit/Succession Strategy Post 2010	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report and Strategy
Private Sector Investment Plan	17 <sup>th</sup> March 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report and Plan
Pest Control VFM	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report
Housing Green Paper	17 <sup>th</sup> March	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report
ASB Section 12 Policy Refresh	31 <sup>st</sup> March	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report

April 2008					
Safer Neighbourhoods Teams Review	7 <sup>th</sup> April	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report
	24 <sup>th</sup> April	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel			
Dispersal Order Review	7 <sup>th</sup> April	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report
	24 <sup>th</sup> April	Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel			
Parenting Support Project	21 <sup>st</sup> April	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods	On Target	Michelle Musgrave	Report

**NEIGHBOURHOODS**  
**7th January, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Kaye (Policy Advisor) and P. A. Russell (Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. Hamilton and McNeely.

**152. SMOKEFREE LEGISLATION - UPDATE**

In accordance with Minute No. 1(6) of 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2007, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods presented a report outlining action taken by the Council to raise awareness and encourage Borough-wide compliance with Smokefree Legislation which had come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2007.

Following introduction of the Legislation, between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2007, 2,568 visits had been made with numerous premises found to be displaying either incorrect or wrongly positioned signage both of which were quickly rectified. Whilst initial advice and guidance has often been required, subsequent compliance has been high and approached 100% with no formal intervention required to date. Returns were made to the Government on a monthly basis.

Complaints to the Council had mainly concerned allegations of people smoking in smokefree premises/vehicles all of which had been investigated and a satisfactory outcome on compliance achieved.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues raised:-

- The 2 temporary members of staff would finish in July, 2008
- Would the successful implementation be maintained during the winter period particularly in public houses?
- How/was it enforced on late night public transport?
- How was smoking in business vehicles monitored? Who reported it? How were the workers disciplined?
- Discussions should take place with the Chamber of Trade with regard to developing no smoking policies for businesses

Resolved:- (1) That the actions undertaken to secure compliance with the Smokefree Legislation be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted in July, 2008, covering the points raised above.

**153. AFFORDABLE HOUSING INTERIM PLANNING STATEMENT**

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods presented a report on the need to revise the existing Affordable Housing Policy to deliver a higher

yield of affordable and social housing dwellings. This had been recognised for some time and was now possible following approval of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. A process of consultation had been approved by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development with the aim of adoption of the new Policy by April, 2008.

The Draft Revised Interim Planning Statement had been produced with the benefit of several years of experience in implementation of the current Affordable Housing Policy. Viability Studies had been undertaken by the University of West England (UWE) on behalf of the Council, on the estimated likely developer returns on a range of typical sites throughout the Borough. The conclusion had been that the Council should negotiate a threshold figure of 25% affordable homes based upon the open market value of completed developments. Current Policy was to seek 7.5% in the Pathfinder area and 15% elsewhere.

It was noted that a event had been arranged on 30<sup>th</sup> January with developers and stakeholders to consider the consultation draft.

Resolved:- (1) That the progress being made in revising the Affordable Housing Policy, the timetabled arrangements for consultation and that the new Policy would be effective from April, 2008, be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted to the 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2008 meeting on options for building new Council housing.

**154. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs indicated below of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**155. PETITION - ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - WATH UPON DEARNE**

The Democratic Services Manager reported receipt of a petition, containing 18 signatures, regarding the alleged anti-social behaviour of a neighbour.

Resolved:- (1) That the petition be received.

(2) That the allegations be investigated and a report submitted thereon in 2 months.

(Exempt under Paragraph 2 of the Act – information likely to reveals the identity of an individual)

**156. PETITION - ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - MARSHALL GROVE, WATH UPON DEARNE**

In accordance with Minute No. 78 of 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2007, the Safer Estate Manager, 2010 Rotherham Ltd., reported on the investigations and extensive multi-agency interventions which had been used in an endeavour to change the behaviour of the family concerned.

There had been a reduction in the levels of nuisance although allegations continued with regard to the family dog.

Resolved:- (1) That the actions taken be noted.

(2) That a further report be submitted in 6 months or earlier should there be a deterioration in circumstances.

(Exempt under Paragraph 2 of the Act – information likely to reveals the identity of an individual)

**157. PETITION UPDATE - KNOLLBECK CRESCENT, BRAMPTON BIERLOW**

In accordance with Minute No. 101 of 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2007, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods reported on the actions taken following receipt of the petition.

A multi-agency approach had been undertaken to resolve the concerns raised under the leadership of neighbourhood enforcement. A number of tools and powers under the Housing Act 2004, Environmental Protection Act 1990, Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Public Health Act 1936 had been utilised by officers to provide a holistic enforcement solution of the problems identified.

Efforts had been made to ensure that residents in the area had been kept informed of progress of the case. Telephone contact had been maintained frequently with residents and in particular a number of key residents who had acted as spokespersons for the community.

It was noted that the occupants had been rehoused temporarily into Council accommodation.

Resolved:- (1) That the steps taken to address the concerns of the petitioners be noted.

(2) That an update be submitted on the Empty Homes Strategy with particular regard to the property that had been disposed of under the Policy.

(3) That a further update be submitted in 6 months.

(Exempt under Paragraph 2 of the Act – information likely to reveals the identity of an individual)





**CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS**  
**Monday, 21st January, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Ellis (in the Chair); Councillors Kaye and N. Hamilton (Policy Advisors).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors McNeely and P. A. Russell.

**158. KIRSTY EVERSON**

The Chair welcomed Kirsty, the newly appointed Director of Independent Living, to her first meeting of the Cabinet Member.

**159. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Ramona Youhill, 2010 Rotherham Ltd. presented the Repairs and Maintenance Improvement Plan which had been approved by 2010's Board on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2007.

The document outlined the main actions to be taken to ensure that the £13M Repairs and Maintenance Budget was not exceeded by the end of the financial year whilst enabling the business to meet the 60:40 planned/responsive split target of expenditure and delivering an excellent Repairs and Maintenance Service for Rotherham Borough's tenants and leaseholders.

The Asset Management Team would distribute budget funding to allocated projects and collate responsive, programmed and cyclical works to give value for money to the customers of 2010 and also in line with the Audit Commission's recommendations and the Decent Homes Programme.

Currently, the position was 35% planned and 65% responsive repairs with the aim of increasing that to 40% and 60% respectively.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

**160. DECENT HOMES - INSTALLATION OF FULL BATHROOM SUITES**

Ramona Youhill, 2010 Rotherham Ltd. presented a report, previously approved by the Board of 2010 Rotherham Ltd., on the installation of full bathroom suites incorporating close coupled wc's.

In line with the criteria set at the onset of the Decent Homes Phase 2 programme, the aim had to been to enhance the works specified within the Rotherham Standard if within the affordability criteria. Although the Apex asset management data system was not fully operational as yet, a good affordability prediction could be extrapolated.

There had been a substantial increase in customer appeals to the initial scope of the works over the past year, the majority of which were attributed to the bathroom suite renewal criteria which was presently set on an elemental basis. 90% of the appeals were upheld which justified the recommendation to install full bathroom suites.

Although initial elemental renewal of bathroom fittings was perceived as just criteria, it was not apparent that it was having a detrimental effect on customer satisfaction. The Board had approved:-

- The replacement of bathroom suites to be on a full suite basis as opposed to elemental
- The installation of close coupled cisterns in lieu of low flush.

Discussion ensued on the report with issues raised regarding:-

- o Running of the affordability model
- o Funding
- o Efficiency savings

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That it be noted that the report was not a bid for additional funding (£5.5M) but would be funded by 2010's efficiency savings.

**161. DECENT HOMES: RECOMMENDATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SHOWERS OVER BATHS**

The Chair deferred the report for clarification of the finance for the proposal.

**162. OPTIONS FOR BUILDING NEW COUNCIL HOUSING**

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the Housing Green Paper: "Homes for the future: more affordable and more sustainable" which signalled the Government's intent to deliver a step change in the supply of housing to meet the growing crisis of housing affordability.

The new measures proposed included a commitment to deliver up to 50,000 new social homes a year with a renewed role for local authorities to build social housing and new ways for Councils and ALMOs to build homes on Council land. The Housing and Regeneration Bill would pave the way for social home delivery.

The range of options included:-

- ALMO Direct Build
- Registered Social Landlord Build
- Private Sector Build

- Local Housing Company
- Housing Regeneration Company
- Single Estate Transformation Model
- Community Land Trust
- Limited Liability Partnerships

Discussion ensued on the options, some of which lent themselves more to Rotherham.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That a report be submitted in March, 2008, setting out Rotherham's position against each of the options to enable them to be prioritised.

(3) That further reports be submitted on the delivery of legislation and guidance from the Department of Communities and Local Government as it emerges.

(4) That officers identify good practice and follow the progress of local authority Housing Company pilots and kept the Cabinet Member update.

#### **163. PRIVATE SECTOR STOCK CONDITION SURVEY**

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services presented the key findings of the recently completed Private Sector Stock Condition Survey which had been carried out during the summer of 2007 by Fordham Research.

The study was developed through extensive research including a physical survey of 1,876 dwellings. It had also covered private sector dwellings across the Borough. The outputs were designed to provide an evidence base for local private sector housing policy and the work needed to ensure private sector decency.

The last survey was carried out in 2003 based on the 'old' housing fitness standard and therefore did not include decency information. The formula used at that time had calculated approximately 8,092 vulnerable non-decent homes compared with 4,212 found in 2007.

The study had shown:-

- Approximately 84,242 private sector dwellings of which 90.7% were owner occupied and 9.3% private rented
- Approximately 2,544 vacant private dwellings, approximately half of which were long term vacant
- The most common type of dwelling was semi-detached (49.7%)
- Overall the age profile of stock was relatively young with only 15% built before 1919
- Estimate of 10% of private sector dwellings had a Category 1 hazard

- (hazards associated with excessive cold, falls on the level and falls on stairs)
- Typical repairs included repairs to roofs, windows, amenities and services. It suggested that 13.9% of the private sector stock required comprehensive works of over £10,000 over the next 10 years
  - 49.3% of non-decent homes failed due thermal comfort failure
  - 396 houses in multiple occupation all of which were private rented dwellings
  - Average SAP rating of 60 for the private sector (national average 50)

Discussion ensued on the linking up with the Private Sector Investment Plan and thermal warmth. A large number of private sector properties failed to meet the SAP rating largely because of thermal warmth. All 3 needed to be linked in terms of accessing funding.

Resolved:- (1) That the findings of the Private Sector Stock Condition Survey be noted.

(2) That an annual update on the activity contributing towards responding to the findings of the Survey be submitted.

(3) That consideration be given to the submission of a BIP to the Capital Budget process.

(4) That a revised Private Sector Investment Plan be submitted in March, 2008.

#### **164. RESPECT ACTION AND DELIVERY PLAN REFRESH**

This action was deferred until 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2008, due to the incorrect appendices having been circulated.

#### **165. DRAFT BME HOUSING DESIGN PROTOCOL**

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods submitted the draft BME Housing Design Protocol which had been produced as guidance for developers during the design process.

A comprehensive process of research had been undertaken into the current guidance available and understanding the key housing issues faced by BME communities such as social and cultural processes and needs, identifying current and future BME housing aspirations, current housing provision and applying design guidance and best practice to develop a consistent approach for Rotherham.

The Design Protocol set out an agreed and consistent approach to:-

- Produce design briefs for new schemes
- Consult and feedback with residents

- Evaluate the suitability of designs for proposed schemes

It also had a strong emphasis on consultation-led design processes due to the cultural and religious complexities related to individual groups. To guide developers a Table of Design Features had been produced as a tool which could be used in the design process and consultation exercises.

The protocol was based on the concept of flexibly designed multi ethnic developments rather than a 'one size fits all' approach. The aim was to incorporate design elements into standard housing requirements to develop housing suitable for all households of any community.

Following consultation with a wide range of key stakeholders, the protocol had evolved to its current draft. Following completion of consultation, it was planned to complete and submit the final draft to Members by March, 2008.

The Registered Social Landlord Partnerships had agreed to adopt the protocol and would incorporate it into the development of the 2008-11 Affordable Housing Development Programme. However, it was essential that it attained eventual planning guidance status to guarantee wider application. Discussions were ongoing with Planning Officers to determine the best means of giving the protocol planning weight such as its incorporation in development plan documents as part of the Local Development Framework.

Discussion ensued on the title of the protocol. As it was a flexible design protocol it could encompass a much wider audience such as learning disability housing needs .

Resolved:- (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the consultation plan for the BME Housing Design Protocol be supported.

(3) That discussions continue with Planning Officers.

(4) That a further update be submitted in March, 2008.

#### **166. PETITION UPDATE**

Further to Minute No. 120 of 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2007, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods reported on the investigations that had taken place into the anti-social behaviour at Ryton Cose and Cross Street, Maltby.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team had visited a number of the signatories who had agreed to liaise and monitor the situation. The residents' concerns were also raised with the Wentworth Valley safer Neighbourhood Team who agreed to provide a visible uniformed

presence in the area for a few weeks.

Officers of the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit had visited on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2007, when there had been no sign of any youths in and around the complex. Some of the signatories were visited on the same evening who confirmed that the situation had gone very quiet and gave thanks to all who had provided support.

The contact signatories have been spoken to on a weekly basis and each time have reported no youths have been seen in the area at all. The Safer Neighbourhood Team had also confirmed that no further complaints have been received.

On 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2007, the Wentworth Valley Area Housing Panel and Housing Market Renewal met and discussed the request for fencing and closure of the footpath. It was agreed to support the erection of fencing with work commencing in January, 2008. Support for the gating of the "Wardens Snickett" was declined as it would block a public right of way which was regularly used.

Resolved:- (1) That the action taken to date and the decisions made by the Area Housing Panel and Housing Market Renewal Team be noted.

(2) That Ward Members be informed of the work that had taken place and the current situation.

**167. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 2 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information likely to reveal the identity of an individual).

**168. PRIVATE SECTOR APPLICATION EXCEEDING DELEGATED POWERS**

The Innovations Manager submitted 1 Disabled Facilities Grant application (private sector) for consideration.

Resolved:- (1) That applicant No. 22375 be approved a mandatory grant of £25,000.

(2) That a Home Appreciation Loan, or the option of self-financing through other means, be offered for the amount over and above and mandatory grant.

**169. HOUSING RENT INCREASE 2008/09**

The Service Accountant (Neighbourhoods), presented a report setting out the proposed rent increases for 2008/09 based on guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and of the key elements of the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2008/09.

The national rent setting regime had been in place since 2002/03 which required all authorities to use a prescribed formula to calculate each tenant's rent and to apply annual increases to actual rents to achieve the Formula Rent by 2011/12. This had produced actual rent increases for Rotherham Council tenants averaging 6.6% between 2002/03 and 2005/06. For 2006/07 and 2007/08 the DCLG had capped all authorities' rent increases at 5% and compensated for the financial impact by paying additional HRA subsidy known as the Rental Constraint Allowance (RCA).

For 2008/09 the DCLG had removed the 5% rent cap and payment of the RCA but had extended the timescale for achieving the Formula Rent by 5 years i.e. 2016/17. Due to Rotherham's historically low rents and an element of catching up for the effect of the 5% rent cap as rents move toward the Formula Rent, the average annual rent increase needs to be approximately 6.9% to achieve the Formula Rent by 2016/17.

The report had had to be considered as a late item due to the Final Determination on the HRA Subsidy and Rent Determinations for 2008/09 not being received until 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2008. Cabinet would consider the report on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2008.

Resolved:- That the Cabinet be requested to recommend to Council:-

- (1) An average rent increase of 6.9% based on the DCLG subsidy and rent proposals which result in an average increase of £3.57 to £54.90 per week when collected over 48 weeks.
- (2) That the Housing Subsidy Determinations, as detailed in the report, and the impact on the HRA budget be noted.
- (3) That there be no increase to Garage rents in 2008/09.
- (4) That the present Policy pay award and inflation factors be applied to the HRA budget which includes the Management Fee and the Repairs and Maintenance Budget for 2008/09.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act - – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the Council))

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**Thursday, 17th January, 2008**

Present:- Councillor McNeely (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Cutts, Goulty, Havenhand, Nightingale, Robinson, P. A. Russell, Walker and F. Wright. together with Hilary Cahill (Housing Tenant Panel) and D. Barker (Parish Councils).

Councillor Ellis was in attendance at the invitation of the Chair.

Councillors Foden, Jack, Pickering, Swift and Wootton were in attendance for Minute No. 94.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Falvey and Lakin.

**92.           DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

**93.           QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

There were no members of the public and press present at the meeting.

**94.           REVIEW OF THE LETTINGS POLICY**

Further to the all Members seminar on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, Sandra Tolley, Housing Choices Manager, presented a report detailing the key activities that had been undertaken to ensure that the new proposed Policy reflected, not only the statutory requirements including the Housing Act 1996 and the "Allocation of Accommodation: Choice Based Letting Code of Guidance for Local Authorities (CLG 2007)", but also encompassed the needs of Rotherham people.

The Cabinet Member of Neighbourhoods had reconsidered the report on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 (Minute No. 128) and had asked that the Scrutiny Panel give particular consideration to the following 2 issues:-

- Removal of the 4 week penalty of forward dating applications following refusal of a property
- Cancellation of an application if not actively bidding within 5 years of their registration date.

Sandra gave a powerpoint presentation drawing attention to the Policy drivers, the consultation timetable, proposed bands/groups, key issues to consider and implementation timetable.

Discussion ensued on the report with the following issues/suggestions raised:-

- o The proposed review would entail a customers being asked to



update information held on file. If someone did not send in a return, the circumstances as to why would be looked into. If there was a genuine reason, the application would be re-opened e.g. armed forces.

- A review of the waiting list had not been carried out for some time and was required before implementation of the new Policy.
- When an applicant moved into another category through a change of circumstances their original date remain on file
- There was still priority for regeneration areas the date being from the date of the Cabinet Member decision being made
- A newly appointed Sheltered Housing Co-ordinator was working down a list and contacting individuals and asking if they understood how the process worked

Resolved:- (1) That the process be managed by the annual Housing Register Review process and continue to consider each application on individual merit.

(2) That all Members, together with co-opted members of this Scrutiny Panel, receive a copy of the proposed review form.

(3) That the report of the Letting Policy be supported for adoption by Council.

## **95. PRIVATE SECTOR STOCK CONDITION SURVEY**

Tom Bell, Neighbourhood Investment Manager, submitted a report, aided by a powerpoint presentation, highlighting the key findings of the recently completed private sector stock condition survey in Rotherham and the responses to be considered by the Council.

The key findings were as follows:-

- Rotherham generally showed better dwelling conditions than those found nationally
- There were less non-decent private sector homes than estimated through the ready reckoner based approach
- There were less vulnerable households living in non-decent housing than earlier thought
- The study identified that the condition of Rotherham's private sector still presented a number of challenges which required significant capital investment

A discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues highlighted:-

- The consultants who had undertaken the survey were able to compare the data with other authorities and look at the national picture. Rotherham had emerged quite well but there were certain pockets of severe deprivation where the private sector fell quite

badly

- The consultants used a computer random generated list of properties for survey. A series of attempts were made to gain entry to the property and in some instances an external survey was undertaken. The survey needed to be robust enough to give confidence in the overall findings so the number of non-internal surveys had to be kept to the minimum or had to find alternative properties
- The results helped to develop a Strategy to look at how to resource the priorities within it. Work took place on the enforcement and education aspects with private landlords and capital funds brought into areas and possibly private equity based loan products for landlords to carry out improvements

Resolved:- (1) That the findings from the private sector stock condition survey be noted.

(2) That an annual update on the activity contributing towards responding to the findings of the survey be submitted to the Scrutiny Panel.

(3) That a revised Private Sector Investment Plan be submitted within 3 months.

#### **96. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Scrutiny Adviser submitted a Work Programme update for 2007/08.

To date, the issues covered by the Panel included:-

- A Neighbourhood's showcase including reports on Alcohol Exclusion Zones, Noise Reduction Strategy, Enviro-Crime and Regulatory Services
- Housing Market Renewal Programme
- Bereavement Services
- Rural Housing Strategy
- Council garage sites
- Eco Housing
- Licensing Regulations
- Housing issues including void properties, responsive and programme repairs

It was noted that the Chair was to spend a day shortly with the Voids Team.

Resolved:- That the update be noted.

#### **97. CABINET MEMBER OF NEIGHBOURHOODS**

The Panel noted the decisions made under delegated powers by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2007.

Resolved:- That the Housing Strategy (Minute No. 145 refers) be submitted to a meeting of this Panel.

**98. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2007, were noted.

Further to Minute No. 83 (Tetra Pak Carton Recycling) it was noted that publicity on the new scheme had been included in Council Matters, the Advertiser and all Call Centre operatives were informed and able to pass the information onto callers.

**99. PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2007, were noted.

**100. MEMBERS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP**

The minutes of the above Advisory Group held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2007, attended by Councillors Wyatt (in the Chair), The Mayor (Councillor Jackson), Currie, Pickering, Sangster and Walker, be noted.

**101. MEMBERS CONSULTATION ADVISORY GROUP**

The minutes of the Members Consultation Advisory Group held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2007, were noted.

**102. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs indicated below of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**103. NEIGHBOURHOODS SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2008/09**

Michelle Musgrave, Director of Neighbourhood and Adult Services, and Mike Clements, Service Accountant (Neighbourhoods) presented the submitted report on the current position in relation to proposals for the budget setting process for 2008/09 and the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

A number of efficiency and investment proposals had been identified which highlight potential areas for efficiencies and areas where there are budget pressures which may need additional investment. These are to be considered by senior officers and elected members as part of agreeing the revenue budget for 2008/09 and updating the Medium Term Financial

Strategy.

Members of the Panel raised and discussed the following:-

- Mediation Service
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Community Leadership Fund
- Section 68 Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act – stray dogs

Resolved:- (1) That the latest report be received and the current potential efficiencies and investments for Adult Services, proposed for setting the 2008/09 revenue budget and development of the Medium term Financial Strategy, be noted.

(2) That work in progress to identify additional efficiencies to assist in closing the anticipated funding gap be noted.

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council)).

#### **104. HOUSING RENT INCREASE 2008/09**

Mike Clements, Service Accountant (Neighbourhoods), distributed a report setting out the proposed rent increases for 2008/09 based on guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and inform Members of the key elements of the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2008/09.

The national rent setting regime had been in place since 2002/03 which required all authorities to use a prescribed formula to calculate each tenant's rent and to apply annual increases to actual rents to achieve the Formula Rent by 2011/12. This had produced actual rent increases for Rotherham Council tenants averaging 6.6% between 2002/03 and 2005/06. For 2006/07 and 2007/08 the DCLG had capped all authorities' rent increases at 5% and compensated for the financial impact by paying additional HRA subsidy known as the Rental Constraint Allowance (RCA).

For 2008/09 the DCLG had removed the 5% rent cap and payment of the RCA but had extended the timescale for achieving the Formula Rent by 5 years i.e. 2016/17. Due to Rotherham's historically low rents and an element of catching up for the effect of the 5% rent cap as rents move toward the Formula Rent, the average annual rent increase needs to be approximately 6.9% to achieve the Formula Rent by 2016/17.

The report had had to be considered as a late item due to the Final Determination on the HRA Subsidy and Rent Determinations for 2008/09 not being received until 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2008. Cabinet would consider the report on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2008.

The Chair requested that the circulated report be handed it at the end of the meeting.

Resolved:- That the Scrutiny Panel supports:-

- (1) An average rent increase of 6.9% based on the DCLG subsidy and rent proposals which result in an average increase of £3.57 to £54.90 per week when collected over 48 weeks.
- (2) That the Housing Subsidy Determinations, as detailed in the report, and the impact on the HRA budget be noted.
- (3) That there be no increase to Garage rents in 2008/09.
- (4) That the present Policy pay award and inflation factors be applied to the HRA budget which includes the Management Fee and the Repairs and Maintenance Budget for 2008/09.

**PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**18th January, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Stonebridge (in the Chair); Councillors Akhtar, Austen, Boyes, Burton, Clarke, Doyle, Jack, McNeely, G. A. Russell, P. A. Russell and Whelbourn.

Also in attendance were :

Councillor Wardle	(Chair of the Audit Committee)
Councillor Hussain	(Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement) for items 131 and 132(2) below

Councillors Dodson, Ellis, Hodgkiss, Smith and Thirlwall for item 130 below

**128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Ellis and Smith declared a prejudicial interest in Minute No. 130 below (Call-In – Consultant’s Report re Bramley Traffic Management Scheme).

**129. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

There were no questions from members of the public and the press.

**130. CALL IN - CONSULTANT'S REPORT RE BRAMLEY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and the process was explained.

The Committee considered Minute No. 162 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services held on 10th December, 2007 regarding proposed amendments to the Bramley Traffic Management Scheme. Also considered was the report that was submitted to the above meeting.

Councillor Ellis, supported by Councillors Dodson, Hodgkiss and Thirlwall, summarised the objections to the proposals as being :-

- the decision was made before all the necessary and appropriate information was available in that :

(a) the Consultant’s report was not available to the Cabinet Member

(b) the household survey was not part of the papers considered

(c) the Task and Finish Group had not reported their findings

(d) no other options than the recommendations were costed

- Councillor Smith could be viewed as not impartial and therefore not open to other options in that he had stated publicly on previous occasions that the scheme was successful and it would not be changed

Councillor Ellis elaborated on the summary as follows:-

- only the officers' interpretation of the Consultant's report was considered
- the Task and Finish Group was asked by the Chief Executive to delay their report so that consideration could be given to the Consultant's report
- officers indicated that the Consultant's report was not available electronically for consideration
- 85% of the respondents to the 7000 household survey were dissatisfied with the scheme : traffic did not flow well, congestion, difficult journeys and a negative impact on the village centre itself
- the Task and Finish Group, properly established through the Area Assembly with clear terms of reference, was looking at the broader picture than just traffic. Non consideration of the Group's work was undermining the work/contact with residents. There was no mention of the Group in the report considered by the Cabinet Member. Other area assemblies had established task and finish groups to input to traffic issues

Councillor Thirwall added:

- the scheme had been designed by engineers based on traffic flows rather than village centres
- the 'Manual for Streets' adopted by the Council covering the successful integration of traffic, streets and other activities had been taken on board by the Task and Finish Group
- only 1% of respondents to the survey were in favour of the scheme and the above points were made at the respective Cabinet Member meeting including the proposed accelerated timeframe of the Task and Finish Group to facilitate their report being considered by the Cabinet Member
- nothing would have been lost by delaying the decision until the report of the Task and Finish Group was available

Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services, responded as follows:-

- the Task and Finish Group had been set up contrary to Council Policy and the membership of the Group had been determined by the appointed Chair
- the following Co-ordinating Committee of the area assembly made no mention of the 'established' Task and Finish Group or its composition
- not set up within Council policy, any reference to the Task and Finish Group should be ignored
- two other Task and Finish Groups, that had been established properly in accordance with Council policy, were working with EDS on schemes
- there was no avenue, under Council policy, for Task and Finish Groups to report direct to Cabinet Member meetings
- the decision was based on recommendations from the Consultants and a report from competent professionally qualified officers on improvements to a scheme that was already working
- the accident rate had reduced by 50% since the introduction of the scheme
- other options were considered by the Consultants and by officers
- the scheme was based on traffic movement not cost
- the proposed improvements were covered/requested in the survey : the improvements were outlined
- of the 7008 households, 2196 responded indicating 4000 not bothered enough to respond
- the proposed improvements were decided based upon the information available

Councillor Smith then responded to questioning from the sponsors of the call-in, areas covered being :-

- nothing to prevent consideration of the findings of the Task and Finish Group
- problems associated with the basic design of the traffic management scheme
- membership of the Task and Finish Group
- methodology of figures used regarding the accident rate



Councillor Smith had no questions for the sponsors of the call-in

At this point in the proceedings the Chairman sought clarification regarding the establishment, status and membership of the Task and Finish Group.

The Chairman then invited Councillor Smith to sum up.

Councillor Smith summed up as follows:-

- WSP Consultants were highly qualified
- the Consultant's report was a post implementation operational review of the scheme
- this was a good scheme and previous opportunities to call-in decisions on the scheme had not been pursued
- meetings had taken place with Councillor Thirlwall and the Chair of Bramley Parish Council to iron out issues relating to the scheme
- in 20 months operation there had been little response from the public about the scheme
- the decisions taken were to improve an already successful traffic management scheme
- other schemes were on the books and would receive input from properly constituted Task and Finish Groups

The Chairman invited Councillor Ellis to sum up.

Councillor Ellis summed up as follows:-

- this was viewed solely on traffic management issues when it was a much bigger picture for the village of Bramley. It was not just about moving cars and traffic flows
- the decision was made without four key pieces of information:
  - (a) Consultant's report
  - (b) household survey results
  - (c) report of the Task and Finish Group
  - (d) no other options were costed
- eight major amendments were being proposed at a cost of £270,000 which was not 'tweaking' the scheme

- welcome most of the changes proposed through best practice
- throughout the process, the Cabinet Member had stated consistently in public that the scheme was successful and didn't need to change

The sponsors of the call-in and Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development Services, together with Karl Battersby (Strategic Director of Environment and Development Services), Ian Ashmore (Principal Traffic Officer) and Ken Wheat (Transportation Unit Manager) answered, where possible, questions from the Committee covering:-

- number of times the scheme had been considered by Council
- background to the request for a traffic management scheme in Bramley
- total cost of removing the traffic management scheme
- exactly which proposed improvements the sponsors of the call-in were objecting to
- input of Councillors Ellis and Thirlwall to the early consultation stages of the traffic management scheme
- understanding of ramifications of the scheme
- current status of the Task and Finish Group and its report
- membership/remit of the Task and Finish Group
- Cabinet Member's awareness of issues raised by sponsors of the call-in
- background to Bramley Action Group
- recommendations of the Task and Finish Group report
- support within Bramley for and against the traffic management scheme

At the conclusion of the questioning, Councillors Ellis and Smith left the room and the Committee deliberated.

Resolved:- That the call-in request be not supported.

(Councillors Ellis and Smith declared a prejudicial interest in the above item and left the room at the conclusion of the questioning from the Committee and prior to the Committee's deliberations)

**131. NEW EUROPEAN MIGRATION**

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement, introduced a report by the Chief Executive, which provided information on the impact and opportunities for the Rotherham Borough presented by new European migration. It also summarised the results of a self assessment carried out by the Council's Directorates to develop and promote good practice on migration and the integration of new migrant communities.

The report provided specific information and guidance on:-

- The Background
- Current migrant population data for EU A8 Accession countries.
- Self assessment and developing good practice.
- Initial findings from self assessment within RMBC Directorates.
- Current strengths.
- Areas for Development.
- Next Steps.

Resources were currently being realigned within services, where necessary, to tackle the challenges above. Any future increasing demand on services would require more accurate financial planning and further research was recommended to identify any hidden costs that were currently absorbed within mainstream services.

The Institute of Community Cohesion (iCoCo) had recently carried out research into the scale and impacts of migration at the local level for the Local Government Association (LGA). They had made recommendations relating to recognising the impact of migration within funding.

One possibility they had suggested, was to include an allowance for migration in grant formulae, which could be likened to the current judgemental allowance for population 'sparsity'. This, they state, could go some way to meet the extra costs experienced by those areas which were consistently the focus of migration. Another approach they had suggested, which they state would be more sensitive to short-term changes, would be to allow bidding against a mobility fund where major and rapid shifts in population could be demonstrated. The reason for this would be to counterbalance, to some extent, the distorting effects of basing three year grant funding on 2004 estimates of population.

The Government had also announced £50 million investment over the next three years to promote community cohesion and support local authorities in preventing and managing community tensions.

Migration into Rotherham offered many opportunities for the borough in terms of economic, social and cultural development. However, these benefits may not be realised without commitment and co-ordinated action at a local level to manage the integration of new migrant communities

successfully. Failure to identify new migrant communities moving into Rotherham, carry out an assessment of their needs and potential impacts on local settled communities, co-ordinate service provision and resources and manage the integration of new migrants into local communities could result in community tensions and inadequate service provision and resource allocation.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- workshop/conference held on 17th January, 2008
- health and social care
- education/social/cultural issues
- understanding local population change and information sharing with partner organisations
- areas for development
- pressures on voluntary service
- translation needs/resources/services
- reporting/monitoring arrangements

Resolved:- (1) That the results of the self assessment be noted.

(2) That the following actions be supported:-

- Community Engagement and Cohesion Manager to lead and co-ordinate the Council's response to new European migration issues, reporting to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Involvement, Cabinet, CMT, the New Arrivals Working Party, the Local Strategic Partnership Community Cohesion Partnership and Rotherham Partnership Proud Board.
- For information to be provided to Members on new European migration into Rotherham, possible future trends and the opportunities and challenges that migration provides to the Borough.
- To share information and good practice on New European Migration in Rotherham and plan a way forward.
- Arrangements for a conference during January, 2008 for Partner agencies, voluntary and community sector organisations. The purpose of this will be to share information and good practice, and begin development of a coordinated approach to respond to current and future demographic changes caused by migration.
- Request, via the Local Strategic Partnership, that Partners undertake a similar mapping exercise (using the I&DeA toolkit, adapted as appropriate) prior to the proposed January conference, to facilitate sharing good practice and coordinating responses.

- Community Engagement and Cohesion Manager to seek support from Government Office of Yorkshire and the Humber on sharing good practice across the region.
- Continue the assessment of the needs of new migrant communities (including further research to assess impacts on services) and recommend responses to identified needs.

(3) That a further report be submitted, to include timetable/target dates, following which the monitoring/reporting arrangements be agreed.

### **132. MINUTES**

Resolved:- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th December, 2007 be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

(2) That, with regard to Minute No. 122(2), Lesley Daballe (VAR) indicated that a future resources paper was being discussed which would impact on the provision of the proposed strategic voluntary community sector post.

### **133. WORK IN PROGRESS**

There was nothing specific to report.

### **134. CALL-IN ISSUES**

There were no formal call in requests.

### **135. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (financial/business affairs).

### **136. BUDGET UPDATE**

Andrew Bedford, Strategic Director of Finance, gave a powerpoint presentation in respect of the above.

The presentation covered:-

- Budget process to date
- Provisional 2008/09 Local Government Finance Settlement
- Area based grants
- Summary statement of projected spend

- Summary statement of projected resources
- Budget pressures
- Budget process
- Financial Services budget 2008/09

Discussion and a questions and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- Working Neighbourhoods Fund and utilisation methodology
- impact of job evaluation/equal pay issues
- Council tax receipts
- SIP's
- Community Leadership Fund
- service delivery from the Council's budget and how such was monitored
- efficiency gains
- method of delivery
- duplication of budgets
- consistency of information presented

Resolved:- That the information be noted and Andrew Bedford be thanked for his presentation.

**RECYCLING GROUP  
TUESDAY, 8TH JANUARY, 2008**

Present:- Councillor R. S. Russell (in the Chair); Councillors Falvey, Atkin and Walker.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. Hamilton and Adrian Gabriel.

**1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER, 2007**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2007, were agreed as a correct record.

Arising from Minute No. 19 (Alternate Weekly Bin Collection), it was reported that very few telephone calls were now being received.

Arising from Minute No. 20 (Tetra Pak Carton Recycling Banks), it was reported that the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel had queried what publicity there had been with regard to this new facility. It was clarified that every household in the Borough had received information, an article included in Council Matters and a press release in the local press. All Call Centre operatives were fully informed and able to inform any callers.

**2. PLASTIC BAG FREE ROTHERHAM**

The Group considered Minute No. 106 of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2007, where members of the Youth Cabinet had been in attendance.

Dale Otter, Recycling and Sustainable Waste Services Officer had presented a briefing note relating to a plastic bag free Rotherham including what steps could be taken to introduce such.

Agreed:- (1) That Minute No. 106 and the recommendations contained therein be noted.

(2) That Dale Otter attend the next meeting of this Group to discuss the bag scheme operated in Southern Ireland.

**3. WASTE MINIMISATION TEAM UPDATE**

Hugh Long, Partnerships and Development Co-ordinator, reported on the Waste Minimisation programme that had been developed to help assist residents with waste management issues.

2 doorstepping ambassadors had been recruited with leaflets and questionnaires developed. The doorstepping had commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2007, with areas of low participation targeted, and would run

until March, 2009.

It was suggested that the ambassadors link up with the young ambassadors and Junior Wardens to maximise resources.

Regular updates would be submitted to this Group on the progress of the programme.

Agreed:- (1) That the Group's appreciation of the work carried out so far be conveyed to the 2 doorstepping ambassadors.

(2) That when the next update is submitted to this Group, 1 of the ambassadors also be in attendance to share their experiences.

**4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM**

Bring Bank Strategy

**5. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed:- That a further meeting be held on 26th February, 2008, commencing at 10.00 a.m.



**NEW ARRIVALS WORKING PARTY**  
**Wednesday, 30th January, 2008**

Present:- Councillor Sharman (in the Chair); and Councillor Hussain.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Ellis, Kirk, Rushforth and S. Wright.

**12. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER, 2007**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2007, were agreed as a correct record.

**13. NEW ARRIVALS FROM EASTERN EUROPE - IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**

Agreed:- That consideration of this item be deferred until the next meeting of this Working Party.

**14. NEW EUROPEAN MIGRATION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Community Engagement and Cohesion Manager providing information on the impact and opportunities for the Rotherham Borough presented by new European migration. The report also summarised the results of a self assessment carried out by this Council's Directorates to develop and promote good practice on migration and the integration of new migrant communities. The self assessment process had highlighted certain areas for further development, in relation to new European migration, as follows:-

- delivering vision and leadership and understanding population change;
- community cohesion;
- education and schools;
- housing;
- employment and skills;
- community safety;
- health and social care;
- child protection.

Agreed:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the results of the self assessment carried out by this Council's Directorates, as summarised in the report submitted, be noted.

(3) That a seminar about new European migration be held later in the year for all Members of the Council.

**15. CASE RESOLUTION PROGRAMME**

The Asylum Project Team Leader gave a verbal update on the above Programme. There was still little progress from the Home Office, therefore it was anticipated that the Programme would be extended beyond March, 2008.

Discussion took place on the housing accommodation for new arrival families.

Agreed:- (1) That the progress of the Case Resolution Programme be noted.

(2) That the Asylum Project Team Leader prepare a briefing note for Councillors about housing accommodation for new arrival families.

(3) That the Asylum Project Team Leader prepare a briefing note for the three local Members of Parliament about the Case Resolution Programme.

#### **16. ASYLUM PROJECT TEAM - BUDGET**

The Asylum Project Team Leader submitted a report containing the budget position for the period April to December, 2007 and also a projection to the end of the current financial year, 31st March, 2008. The report showed that income was currently exceeding expenditure and that the current level of expenditure was on target.

The Working Party noted the difficulties of setting future budget projections, until information had been received from the Home Office about the probable number of new arrivals in the Rotherham Borough area.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

#### **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed:- That further meetings of the New Arrivals Working Party be held on the following dates:-

- Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2008, commencing at 9.00 a.m.
- Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2008, commencing at 9.00 a.m.
- Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2008, commencing at 9.00 a.m.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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